

Church-State Issues Face Congress

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) — Prayer in public schools and tuition tax credits head the list of church-state issues likely to be legislative objectives of the 97th Congress, which convened Jan. 5.

It is unlikely the new Congress, with a Republican-controlled Senate and a much more conservative orientation, will match the separationist record of the 96th Congress on church-state issues, observers have noted.

Since both the Republican platform and President-elect Reagan support government-sponsored prayer in public schools and tuition tax credits, the question is not whether these issues will surface, but when and in what form. Such issues may be temporarily pushed aside until the new President and Congress have had a chance to tackle larger issues such as the ailing economy, observers said.

Proponents of such school prayer and tuition tax credits mustered a flurry of activity during the last Congress, but failed to change current

laws and court decisions which support the constitutional requirement of church-state separation.

The prayer in school issue created quite a stir when the Helms amendment to S. 450 failed to die as quietly as expected in the House Judiciary Committee after Senate passage in April 1979. The amended bill, which would have denied federal courts jurisdiction in school prayer cases, died only after efforts by religious fundamentalists and political conservatives in the House produced more than 170 of the required 218 signatures on a discharge petition to bring the bill to the floor and after a series of subcommittee hearings.

Proponents of prayer in schools have made no secret to their plans to push the issue in the 97th Congress.

The Senate soundly rejected an effort by tuition tax credit proponents to extend basic educational opportunity grants to qualifying private elementary and secondary school students. Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., led the

challenge against the amendment to a bill extending the Higher Education Act of 1965, calling the rider "foot-in-the-door legislation" which would "establish a precedent for comprehensive federal assistance to private education."

Like the prayer in school issue, chances for tuition tax credit legislation have been enhanced with the new Congress and administration.

Keeping Records

On another key church-state matter, the 96th Congress backed away from lobby disclosure legislation requiring religious groups to keep records and report to government on their advocacy efforts. Although the language of the lobby disclosure bill was changed in both House and Senate committees to exempt religious groups from the reporting requirements, the bill died before coming up for a vote.

After intelligence committees in both the House and Senate held extensive hearings on a new intelligence charter, proponents gave up and set-

led for a limited bill dealing with congressional oversight of the intelligence community. The issue of intelligence agency use of clergy, which was partially addressed in the proposed charter, was left unsettled.

Chances for a legislated ban on the use of clergy in the 97th Congress are uncertain, but the new Republican leadership in the Senate and the Republican platform both appear to lean more in the direction of unleashing the intelligence community rather than restricting it.

Also on the church-state front, Congress passed legislation which preserves the right of denominational workers and missionaries to participate in denominational retirement plans.

An amendment pushed by Sen. Herman E. Talmadge, D-Ga., to legislation amending the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), clarifies the definition of a church employee. Without the "church plan" amendment, virtually

all-denominational workers outside local church ministries would have been excluded from denominational retirement plans by 1983.

In other legislation of interest to Baptists, the 96th Congress:

—Passed a bill during the lame duck session restoring an income tax exclusion for missionaries and other charitable workers overseas. The tax exclusion is expected to save the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board \$1 million annually. Estimates of savings for all charitable organizations range as high as \$25 million annually.

Registration

—Passed President Carter's military draft registration proposal (after deleting registration of women), despite a seven-day filibuster by Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., on legislation funding the process.

—Passed a bill protecting the civil rights of institutionalized persons by granting to the U.S. Attorney General specific statutory authority to bring or

intervene in suits against a state after determining that there is a "pattern or practice" of depriving institutionalized persons of rights guaranteed by law or the constitution.

—Passed the Refugee Act of 1980, tripling the number of refugee annual admissions to the U.S.

—Passed a supplemental appropriation for the food stamp program just in time to meet the cutoff deadline announced by the Department of Agriculture for suspension of the program if funds had not been approved.

—Failed to complete action on the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1980 when Senate sponsors came up short of the 60 votes needed to invoke cloture on a filibuster during the lame duck session. The measure, which was overwhelmingly approved in the House, was described by Senate proponents as "the most important civil rights bill of the past decade."

—Passed numerous anti-abortion amendments to appropriations measures.

Youth Evangelism Meet Asks: Are You Ready?

By Anne McWilliams

At least 2500 young people were present for every one of the four sessions of the Youth Evangelism Conference Dec. 29-30 at the Mississippi College Coliseum, Clinton. This was the largest number to date attending this type conference in the state, sponsored by the Evangelism department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Among the 33 recorded decisions were seven professions of faith.

"This was not just a 'fun time' meeting," said Roy Collum, director of the Evangelism department. "Its purpose was to help young people in how to develop their spiritual lives and how to share their faith with others."

Master's Example

The theme was "Are You Ready?" Those present were provided with a syllabus outlining the evangelism teachings which were presented by Jack Stanton of Bolivar, Mo. and the sermons preached by Barry Landrum, Bossier City, La., and Frank Case of Tempe, Ariz. Subjects explored were such as these: Are you ready to follow the Master's example? Are you ready to live the new life? Are you ready to love through the Holy Spirit? Are you ready to leave to witness?

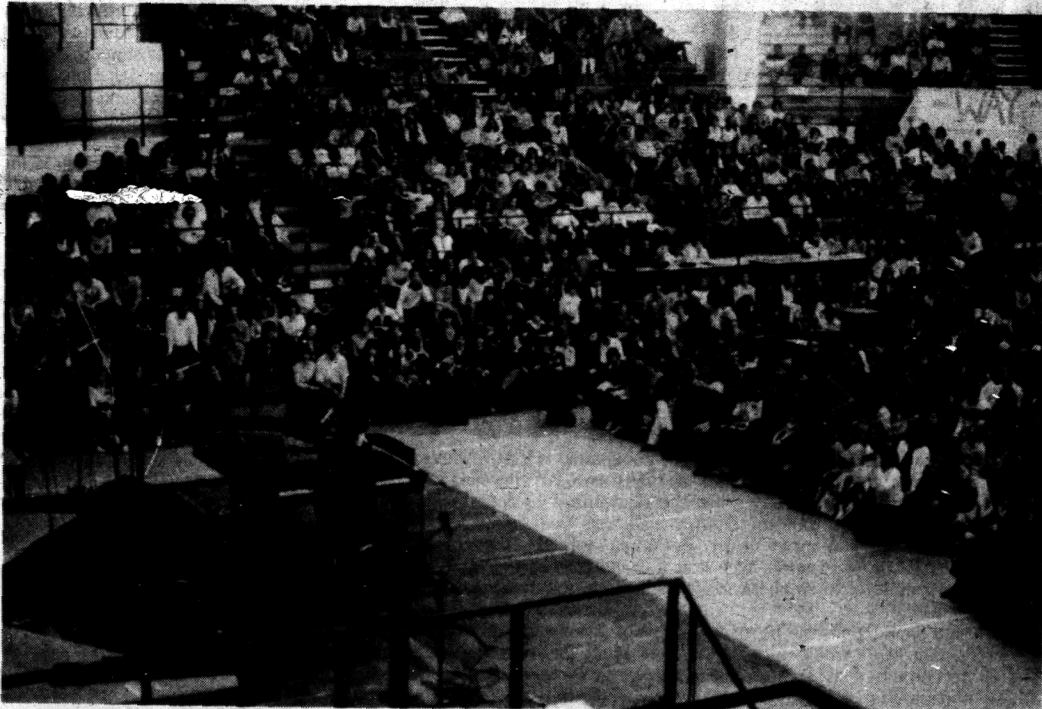
"Concerts like those presented by David Meece and Andrus-Blackwood & Company will usually draw a large crowd of young people," Collum said. "And the concerts were inspirational

features." But he expressed excitement that the young people listened with wrapt attention also to all the messages. "It was encouraging to me to see them eager for spiritual food, and to see them listen like that." There was no 'big feature' on Monday night, but one pastor who brought his young people that night, planning to attend only the one session, told Collum his young people got so much from that session that they begged to return the next day.

In echo to this opinion came a letter from Norris Faggard of Moss Point. "In a time when so much of our youth activities and energies are directed toward entertainment and performance, how refreshing to get some 'meat' as I and my eight young people from First Baptist Church, Moss Point, did at the evangelism meeting."

"We had a two-hour prayer meeting in our motel Monday night and I don't think any of us can ever be the same. Gee, how my heart aches for our young people. We give them so little of what was packed into your two days. Please continue this program and even consider a weekend at Gulfshore emphasizing evangelism, some time this summer or next."

Bruce Fields, minister of youth at First Church, Canton, led the congregational singing, and Don Witzell, minister of youth at Calvary, Jackson, was emcee.



At least 2500 young people filled the Coliseum at Mississippi College during the Tuesday afternoon concert by David Meece, above, and during three other sessions of the Youth

Evangelism Conference Dec. 29 and 30. The conference was sponsored by the Evangelism department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Roy Collum, director. (More on page 2)

Inauguration Day Prayer Requested

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Thousands of "Baptist Hour" listeners are being asked to join in a national prayer effort on Inauguration Day.

Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission which produces and distributes the radio program, to nearly 500 stations, said leaders of the nationwide effort hope to have one million prayer groups across the country on Jan. 20.

Allen is a member of the National Advisory Committee for Inauguration Prayer Day. The committee is an outgrowth of the Prayer Committee of the American Festival of Evangelism, a follow-up of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelism.

Other members of the committee include Leighton Ford, an associate of evangelist Billy Graham; E. V. Hill, pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles; Pat Robertson, president of Christian Broadcasting Network; Bailey Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention; and Thomas Zimmerman, general superintendent of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Baptist Men's Day Theme: "Bold Praying"

By Paul Harrell, Director Brotherhood Department

Mississippi Baptist Convention

On Sunday, January 25, thousands of Southern Baptist Churches will recognize and honor their laymen on Baptist Men's Day. In most churches it will be a time when the congregation will hear a layman speak or a group of laymen give testimonies. The program may include men's choruses, prayer breakfasts, and mission emphases. It can be a day of deep spiritual significance as we witness laymen exercising their gifts in the ministry.

The theme for Baptist Men's Day 1981 is "Bold Praying." As we look around our world and note the many mission needs, certainly this is a day that demands Bold Praying for all Christians.

Baptist Men's Day — January 25, 1981 — is a day to:

1. Recognize the leadership of men—past and present—who are involved through the church program;
2. Challenge men not involved in leadership responsibilities to explore and discover God's gift so that they too

will become involved in a ministry of service;

3. Inform the congregation of the importance of men being involved in mission activities;
4. Initiate an on-going Baptist Men's Prayer unit in the church.

Baptist laymen in Mississippi are responding to the challenge of the Bold Mission Thrust as expressed in Bold Praying, Bold Going, and Bold Giving.

Young Ministers' Wives' Retreat Set

A Young Ministers' Wives' Retreat is set for Jan. 23-24 at Camp Garaywa, Clinton. Designed for wives under age 40 of ministers in any area of service, the retreat is sponsored by the Women's Missionary Union. It is complimentary, but reservations are required. Write WMU, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

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Radio-TV Agency Moves To Establish New Network

By Toby Drulin

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission has moved to establish a 100-station low powered television network with a potential national viewing audience of 163 million.

Though some expressed concern over various aspects of the proposal, the commission, in a special called meeting Jan. 5, unanimously voted to establish the network and created a subsidiary corporation, the American Christian Television System (ACTS).

The corporation, organized Jan. 6, will make application and hold licenses for the stations, establish the

stations in partnership with local Baptist bodies and contract with the commission to provide network programming for them.

Jimmy R. Allen, RTVC president, also will be president of ACTS. Other members of the corporation will be Grady C. Cothen, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board; Daniel Rivera, president of Mexican Baptist Bible Institute in San Antonio, Texas; Harold T. Branch, pastor of St. John's Baptist Church in Corpus Christi, Texas; and Marvin C. Church in Austin, Texas.

Cothen was named to the corporation and the Sunday School Board promised an hour of network time because the board will provide a \$10 million "insurance credit" to assure the Federal Communications Commission the corporation and commission have adequate financial backing to establish the stations. None of the \$10 million is expected to be spent, however, since local Baptist churches, associations and others

are expected to construct the stations. Rivera and the two black Southern Baptist pastors, Branch and Griffin, were named to the corporation because an essential requirement of the FCC in granting the licenses is ethnic representation among the license holders, Allen told trustees.

Allen said that although the ethnic makeup of the corporation is designed to meet FCC qualifications, no subterfuge is intended because each of the three ethnic members is an active Southern Baptist.

The ACTS will use a three-point system to any contested areas, Allen said, which will include date of application, whether the station is commercial or non-commercial — with preference to non-commercial uses — and minority representation in the ownership.

Hundreds of the low power 100 and 1,000 watt stations are expected to be established across the nation in the next few years, broadcasting over a 42-foot printed out, the signals can be

picked up by local cable systems to greatly expand the audience.

Applications for licenses for the stations will be frozen by the FCC on Jan. 15, Allen explained, hence the hastily called meeting.

While the low powered translator stations have been around for many years, they have not figured in Southern Baptist plans because of their 10-mile range, Allen said. But, when the possibility of easier access to existing and developing cable stations was realized, Allen revamped his strategy.

"We stumbled on this thing five weeks ago," Allen told trustees, relating he had a conversation with an engineer, John F. X. Brown of Louisville, Ky., in early December, and immediately began looking into the matter.

With Brown's help, RTVC staffers "worked almost around the clock," Allen said, to determine potential sites and assemble engineering data to support the applications.

About 200 of the station licenses al-

(Continued on page 2)

Conference To Offer Witnessing Opportunities

The Mississippi Baptist Evangelism-Bible Conference is offering two opportunities for special witness.

The weekend prior to the event on Feb. 24 in Hattiesburg at First Baptist Church, there will be a weekend evangelistic crusade led in various churches primarily by Mississippi evangelists.

The other effort is a massive evangelistic witnessing project for Tuesday afternoon of the program.

Following the close of the 12 doctrine sessions Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 3, participants will be asked to accept witnessing assignments. They will go out into the Hattiesburg community, knocking on doors offering a Christian witness to those found at home.

If no one is at an individual home, materials will be left. Follow-up is promised by the local churches for each home visited.

Joel Ray, director of missions, Lebanon Association, is coordinating the witnessing project. His committee is securing permits where necessary and is organizing a reporting and follow-up procedure.

The Evangelism-Bible Conference is an annual event sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. It is a combination of two former conferences, the Bible Conference and the Evangelism Conference, led, respectively, by the Sunday School and Evangelism departments.

Evening services of the conference are to be televised over Cable 6, a cable channel operated by First Church. Main sessions will be videotaped for future use.

During this year's conference, child care will be offered at First Church during each session for children birth-three years of age.

Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., and president of the Southern Baptist Convention will be one of the featured speakers during the conference. He

will speak on Tuesday evening and on Wednesday morning.

The conference begins on Monday evening and goes until Wednesday noon.

James Smith, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, will lead the Bible study on the opening evening and twice on Tuesday. Joe Gregory, pastor of Gambrell Street Baptist Church, Fort Worth, will lead the Bible study on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning.

Other speakers will be Roy Edgemon, director of the Church Training

department of the SBC Sunday School Board; John Havlik, staff member of the Home Mission Board's Evangelism Section; and Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.

John Newport of Springfield, Mo., will be the soloist, Dan Hall, director of the Church Music department for Mississippi Baptists, will be in charge of the music. Irene Martin, music evangelist of Forest, and Dot Pray, music specialist with the Mississippi Baptist Music department, will be the accompanists.



Pennies For The Hungry

Young people of the bus ministry at First Church, Greenville, gave a wheelbarrow full of pennies, to be sent to the Foreign Mission Board, designated for world hunger. Above with James Heflin, pastor, and Cathy Davis, bus director, are representatives from each bus in the bus ministry of First, Greenville. These young people presented the pastor 34,345 pennies. This was the grand finale of three months of intensive work by the bus ministry of collecting pennies for the hungry of the world.

New Look At Liability Laws Demanded At Church Meeting

ERLANGER, Ky. (EP via RNS) — Churches and synagogues are so vulnerable to lawsuits that further involvement in publicly funded care for the aged requires a new look at liability laws, warns lawyer John W. Baker.

American religious groups have learned to use public money without violating the First Amendment but suing church institutions for alleged liability is a new and growing field of law, Baker said.

Such law suits are a bigger hazard than church-state conflicts, added the lawyer, who said the 1981 White House Conference on Aging should be asked to consider this legal situation as it seeks a national policy.

Baker spoke at a four-day federally supported national symposium on spiritual and ethical values at Marydale in northern Kentucky near Cincinnati.

Part of the preparation for the White House conference, it was convened by the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging.

"Any program it operates for the aging — whether it is worship, meals or a senior citizen club — is fraught with the danger that the church is leaving itself open to suit," Baker said.

The lawyer cited three cases: A pastor and church are being sued for clerical malpractice because a young man committed suicide after being counseled. A plaintiff won \$2 million judgment from the Church of Scientology in Portland because it failed to live up to its promise to make the plaintiff a better person. Some unhappy residents of Pacific Homes Inc., a United Methodist facility, are suing not only the corporation but three major agencies and the denomination, claiming

the entire church is responsible for alleged damages of a local unit "over which the denomination has no direct control."

Baker said a victory for the Pacific Homes plaintiffs "could be a devastating blow to church-sponsored or operated retirement homes and housing for the aged." Already, he noted, Baptists in Michigan and Tennessee have been advised to "abandon plans to operate homes for the aging."

People Could Sue Lutheran Parishes For Lost Money

INDIANAPOLIS (EP) — Lutheran parishes here could be sued by people who lost money on a proposed retirement home that was never built, under a recently-issued court order. Boone County Superior Court Judge Paul L. Johnson Jr. said he would permit a class-action suit against 20 area Lutheran parishes that in the mid-1970s formed the now bankrupt Central Indiana Lutheran Retirement Home, Inc. The suit is sought by people who say they lost nearly \$300,000 in down payments for memberships in the home.

Harry Huxhold, pastor of Redeemer church here, said the largest number of applicants for the home came from his congregation. The corporation said memberships in the home, which was to consist of leased apartments, Rev. Huxhold said. But much of the money was reportedly used for promotional activity. Later, high interest rates made it impossible for the corporation to raise needed capital.

In a similar case on the West Coast, agreement was recently reached on a plan of reorganization for a bankrupt corporation, with the financial backing of a church organization. The Pacific Homes network of retirement facilities had been related to an annual conference (regional unit) of the United Methodist Church. The conference was sued by people who lost money when Pacific Homes declared bankruptcy.

On Dec. 10, a California judge announced an agreement in principle on a plan that would allow the Methodist conference to loan \$21 million to the homes over the next several years.

Fort Worth, Tex. — Registration has begun for the 29th annual Church Music Workshop Jan. 26-30 on the campus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Don Neuen, director of choral activities at the University of Tennessee/Knoxville, will lead choral sessions. Franklin M. Segler, retired professor of pastoral music, will deliver daily lectures on worship.

Ron Nelson, director of music at Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park, Minn., will conduct children's choir clinics. Choral director Dorothy Uris of New York City will lead dictation workshops.

Additional workshop information is available by writing C. David Keith, coordinator, Church Music Workshop, Southwestern Seminary, P. O. Box 22000-4D, Fort Worth, Texas 76122.

Gay Rights Group Wins Battle With Texas A&M

WASHINGTON (BP) — A four-year-old controversy between Texas A&M University and an organization of homosexuals ended when the U.S. Supreme Court let stand a lower ruling that the school unconstitutionally discriminated against the group by denying it official recognition.

Gay Student Services, an organization of homosexual students, took the university to court after officials denied its request for recognition as an on-campus student group, a status which would permit use of campus facilities for meetings and other activities.

The student group charged in federal district court that its First Amendment right to free association was infringed by the university's rejection of the application.

The university has argued throughout the ensuing legal battle that it enjoys immunity from such suits because it is not a "person" under federal law.

University officials denied the homosexual group's request, according to Texas Attorney General Mark White, because such organizations run counter to the "philosophy"

Missionaries On Furlough Polish Pastor Will Preach In Kosciusko

Missionaries now on furlough in Mississippi are Mary Frank Kirkpatrick, Liberia, Box 94, Noxapater, MS; Ron and Sue Ballard, Paraguay, Rt. 8, Box 54, Meridian; Rachel DuBard, Liberia, Box 87, Carrollton; James and Carolyn McAtee, Indonesia, 919 Reaves St., Jackson; Charles and Irene Whitted, Cayman Islands, Pine Trails Townhouses, M-5, Spring Ridge Road, Clinton;

Mary Alice Ditsworth, 4610 Orchard Road, Pascagoula (Indonesia); Danny and Elizabeth Panter, Togo, 416 Ford St., Columbia; Dot Lott, Brazil, 606 Graymont Ave., Hattiesburg; Ralph and Gena Calote, Japan, Rt. 1, Box 116, Wesson; Jason and Susan Carlisle, 4233 Carter Circle, Jackson (Uruguay); Jerald and Elaine Perrill, 407 N. 38th Ave., Hattiesburg, (phone 264-2113) (Thailand); James and Dorothy Gilbert, 718 Woodhill Rd., Jackson (Ecuador.)

Fortaleza, Brazil — The first successful open heart surgery at the Everett Gill Jr. Baptist Memorial Hospital in Fortaleza was performed Oct. 29. A medical team of five performed the three and one-half hour operation in the 40-bed hospital located in this port city in the northeast Brazilian state of Ceara.

In observance of Polish-American Heritage Day Activities in Kosciusko on Saturday, Jan. 17, the Kosciusko Ministerial Association will conduct a worship service at the First United Methodist Church in Kosciusko, beginning at 8 a.m.

Southern Baptist home missionary, John Kasa, native of Poland and pastor of the Polish Baptist Church of our Saviour in Parma, Ohio, will preach the sermon.

Kasa will come to Kosciusko as a guest of the Attala Baptist Association and the Ethel Baptist Church. He will participate in the formal program of the Polish-American Heritage Day Activities at noon on that day.

Other speaking engagements for the Polish-American Baptist leader will be at Williamsville Baptist Church, Ethel Baptist Church and First Baptist, Kosciusko.

Levon Moore is director of missions for the Attala Baptist Association and president of the Kosciusko Ministerial Association.

The name of the city of Kosciusko is not an Indian name, as many suppose, but it was named for Thaddeus Kosciusko, the Polish and American freedom fighter.

Walsh, Kimball Return To Iran For Third Visit

ATLANTA (BP) — Two Southern Baptist ministers invited by the prime minister of Iran to conduct Christmas worship services for the hostages arrived in Tehran a day too late to participate.

It was the third visit to Iran in a year for John Walsh, chaplain at Princeton University, and Charles Kimball, a doctoral student in world religions and Islamic studies at Harvard University.

Their latest trip to Iran, made with the approval of the U.S. State Department, was revealed during a meeting of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta Jan. 6.

Home Mission Board President William G. Tanner told board members about the visit to Iran, pointing out Walsh is a joint employee of the Home Mission Board and the Baptist Convention of New York.

Tanner said Walsh and Kimball made the trip on their own, with no expense to the Southern Baptist Convention or Home Mission Board, in accordance with agreements worked out with him and the Baptist Convention in New York.

Walsh and Kimball received an invitation on Dec. 23 from the prime minister of Iran to conduct Christmas worship services for the hostages, but because of flight schedules and visa delays, they were unable to arrive in Iran until the day after Christmas.

Initial reports indicated they were delayed by 10 hours, but Walsh's wife, Karen, later confirmed that her husband and Kimball arrived in Tehran at 8:30 a.m. Dec. 26.

Mrs. Walsh said they were delayed because they had to fly to Bonn, Germany, to get their visas stamped by the Iranian consulate rather than going directly to Tehran from Frankfurt, Germany, as originally planned.

Tanner told directors there had been apologies from Iranian officials because the invitations were issued too late for them to clear all the red tape necessary to travel to Iran in time for Christmas.

On the morning of the Home Mission Board meeting, Don Hammonds, director of special mission ministries for the board, talked to Walsh by telephone in Tehran.

Walsh told Hammonds he and Kimball had not yet been allowed to visit the hostages or hold religious services for them, but he hoped to do so before they left Tehran, perhaps on Monday, Jan. 12.

Walsh said he and Kimball had been advised by Iranian officials to wait patiently in their hotel room until the Algerian delegation participating in negotiations for the release of the hostages left.

In his statement to the Home Mission Board, Tanner said he feels it was a compliment to Southern Baptists

that the two young men had been invited to hold religious services for the hostages, even though they did not arrive in time to participate.

They were the only American ministers invited to Tehran both Christmas, Tanner pointed out.

During the Christmas season of 1979, Walsh and Kimball were among seven religious leaders from the United States, including former Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Allen, who participated in a "fact finding mission" to study religious dimensions of the crisis in Iran.

On that trip, the seven religious leaders met with the Ayatollah Khomeini, and spent six hours with the militant students then holding the hostages. They did not, however, see the hostages or hold Christmas religious services on that trip, either.

Walsh and Kimball made a second trip to Iran in May to take mail to the hostages and to participate in a conference on American intervention in Iran with former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, despite a travel ban by President Carter.

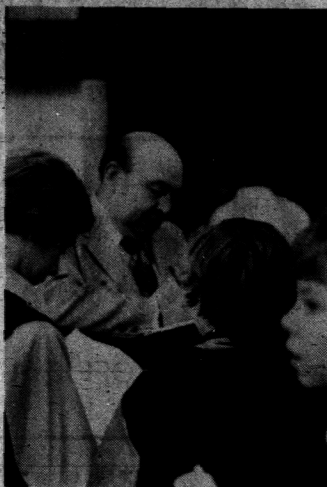
Tanner pointed out in his statement to the board the latest trip in Christmas of 1980 was made with the permission of the State Department to travel to Iran. The latest trip was made "only for religious purposes, and for no political reasons, whatever," Tanner said.

(Newton is HMB news director.)



Youth Evangelism Conference Features

First, Greenville's Youth Choir directed by Kenneth Forbus sang Tuesday afternoon during the Youth Evangelism Conference. Other youth choirs presenting special music during the meeting were from Fairview, Columbus; West Jackson Street Church, Tupelo; First Church, Canton; and Parkway, Natchez.



Jack Stanton, a principal speaker, autographs programs. Stanton, who directed evangelism training for all four sessions, is director of the institute of evangelism and professor of evangelism at Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo.



David Meece, musician, was enthusiastically received by his youthful audience as he sang and played the piano, in concerts Tuesday morning and Tuesday afternoon. Andrus, Blackwood

Home Mission Study Will Relate To The Association

By Wilda Fancher

The working of the Baptist association in its relationship to home missions is the topic for Home Mission Study 1981, February 15-18, across the breadth of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Books on the theme "The Association: Churches on Mission" have been written for each age level in the church.

A SURPRISE AMONG THE ORANGE TREES is designed for preschoolers, moving toward several goals: to increase the young child's understanding of the world God created and the people he made; to become aware of nature as seen in its importance in the change of seasons in producing food; to learn about the feelings of migrant workers in Florida and of missionaries' work with them supported by Cooperative Program gifts and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering; to help the young child feel that everyone, even little ones, can show love in Jesus' name.

MISSIONS FUNBOOK: WILLIE THE BULLY AND FRIENDS is a workbook for younger children (grades 1 and 2) about younger children: Jenny learns what a "so-shay-shun" is as she helps her parents make stew; tough bully Willie's behavior softens after he learns about Christ in a Baptist Center in this city; Maria, a little girl who has to sit under the orange trees all alone because she is too small to pick oranges with the others in her migrant family, is invited to church by a missionary and learns some glad songs to sing about Jesus. Pictures to color, questions to answer, puzzles to work, recipes to cook and songs to sing involve the student in learning how churches work through an association.

Older children (grades 3-6) climb up into A TREEHOUSE IN FROSTBURG with Michael and Larry Faxon where they learn about life with father when father is a director of associational missions in Maryland.

Joining the Faxon family stranded in a snow storm on their move from a pastorate in Ohio to the new job in

Radio-Guam Project Brings Letters From China

CHATHAM, N. J. (EP) — Trans World Radio-Guam recently promoted a stamp-exchange campaign for its Chinese listeners. As a result of this project, mail response has increased at the Hong Kong office.

As many as 100 letters per day have been received, representing at least 25 provinces in China. Many of the letters are from new listeners.

The letters indicate that "the Chinese are inquisitive about God's Word and Christianity," according to Trans-World Radio. More than 340 programs are beamed weekly from Trans World Radio-Guam in the Mandarin, Cantonese, and English languages to over 900 million Chinese.

Maryland is the first in a year full of adventures for the reader. Finding a tree for an even finer treehouse than the one left behind and using the treehouse to help with their father's work give the Faxon boys a sense of God's guidance in their personal lives and in the business of the association.

An unusual newspaper format of COWBOY BOOTS AND CITY SLICKERS, the youth book is a result of youths who themselves live in Montana's Big Sky country (cowboy boots) or in Detroit, Michigan (city slickers), and who are a part of the associational missions programs there. Their photography, art work and writing make up the material developing the theme "Together" and showing what churches can do when revenue and resources are combined.

MISSION POSSIBLE is a beautiful book for adults to look at. By the side of the lovely pictures are columns of study material about associations and other people: 1979 Olympic contenders and spectators and resort ministries, cowboys and Indians and western mission ministries, a leader and his followers in one city's associational missions program, and of associations which have paired themselves into joint forces to meet human crises as well as day-to-day routine of human life.

A comprehensive teaching guide is provided for each book. A complete planning kit is available from the Baptist Book Store for \$3.95. It contains a copy of each book and teaching guide, planning and publicity sheet, posters, order forms for additional materials and a suggested sermon for use during the study season.

Home Mission Study 1981 is structured to prepare a church family through missions education to commit the church to prayer support through the Week of Prayer for Home Missions, March 1-4, 1981, and through financial support in participation in the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

(Mrs. Fancher is a secretary in the Woman's Missionary Union Department which promotes the missions studies.)

Radio-TV Agency Moves To Establish New Network

(Continued from page 1)

ready have been granted, Allen said, and hundreds more requested, which prompted the freeze. He said there is no way of knowing how many of the FCC requests will be granted, when they will be granted or when a network might begin.

Allen said applications will be made for more than 100 licenses, anticipating some contested areas. Several large companies, he said, have applied, as has the Christian Broadcasting Network. No other major denominations are known to have sought licenses, however.

Cost of the stations is expected to vary from \$50,000 to \$100,000 each, the basic cost of transmitters and tower at each local station. The station, in some instances, Allen said, could be limited to a room in a church if the station simply transmits network programming and originates nothing locally.

ACTS will provide network programming during specified times and the local body would determine how much and what type programming it would originate during the remaining hours. Allen emphasized, however, that the future of the system will depend on quality programming and agreements with assured time for small churches.

Network programming eventually would be beamed to the stations through a satellite transponder system from an orbiting station in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Should the system begin operation before its satellite link can be achieved, Allen said, the stations would be supplied with network programs via videotape.

Cohen told Baptist Press: "We envision we will be able to use some of the same hardware to create and operate for the denomination a telecommunications system to communicate with associations, churches and state conventions by way of a satellite.

"The potential for the Southern Baptist

Convention is that within 10 years as many as 10,000 churches may have the equipment to receive telecommunications."

Cohen said a satellite receiving dish can be built for about \$5,000, and once it is in place, a church, state or association would be able to receive live or taped programs, which might include Bible study lectures, teaching and training sessions or addresses delivered at Glorieta or Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Centers.

The network proposal will require the approval of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee which will meet in Nashville, Feb. 16-18. The Sunday School Board's participation in the \$10 million insurance credit, already approved by its plans and policies and executive committees, will have to be ratified by the board when it meets in Nashville Jan. 27-28.

Although the commission members attending the special called meeting gave the proposal enthusiastic, unanimous endorsement, several raised questions and voiced concern about forming the separate corporation, the cost of programming for the network and where both the programs and money would come from.

Allen said he doesn't know where the money will come from, but feels that by better information Baptists through the programs about what the Cooperative Program is doing, the whole level of giving among Southern Baptists will be raised.

He said he feels Southern Baptists now supporting various elements of the electronic church will channel those funds into the SBC network when they see the work being done "in our own family of faith."

However, he said, the commission would not appeal for funds on the air as is being done by some in the electronic media.

"I don't think God is running short of

money," he said. "I just think we have got to be in tune with him."

(Druin is associate editor of The Texas Baptist Standard.)

Link-Up For Six Years Will Cost \$18 Million

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Satellite technology — necessary to make the Southern Baptist network television network a success — presents a tremendous potential but also carries a whopping price tag.

For instance, the satellite transponder linkup for six years of telecasting will cost \$18 million, said Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

"That is astronomical," he said, "for an agency whose current annual budget is just about equal that over the next six years."

"But since God is certainly no stranger to astronomy — after all, he created it —" Allen said he was impressed to ask God for the money, "so we won't have to beg for it on television."

"I asked the Lord to give me \$28 million," Allen told the commission trustees in their special meeting in Fort Worth Jan. 5. He also said he prayed he would receive \$5 million by March 15, and the morning of the special called meeting he already had gotten a commitment for the first \$1 million.

"I asked for large gifts for the satellite," Allen said, "so smaller gifts would go to programming, so that people who give small amounts will know that what they are doing is not providing hardware but actually communicating the gospel."

Allen said the \$5 million by March 15 would be "evidence" from God to those people who might be skeptical about whether the job can be accomplished.

HMB Names Consultants for Hunger, Missions Strategy

ATLANTA (BP) — National consultants for disaster relief/domestic hunger and metropolitan mission strategy were named by directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during their December meeting. Also, they appropriated \$45,000 to help provide Baptist ministries at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn.

Nathan Porter, pastor of First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia, Ark., was named consultant for disaster relief and domestic hunger. George W. Bullard, Jr., director of Christian social ministries for Mecklenburg Baptist Association, Charlotte, N.C., was appointed consultant for MEGA, a mission strategy aimed at U.S. cities of more than one million population.

Board President William G. Tanner noted the fair's theme will focus on energy and told the directors board funds will help Southern Baptists sponsor a "spiritual energy" pavilion.

"We will have an opportunity to witness to between 12 and 22 million people who will visit the fair," Tanner said. The \$45,000 appropriation is the first installment of \$90,000 the board has pledged to the project, which will be sponsored jointly by the board, the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Knox County Association of Baptists.

Porter's appointment as national consultant for

disaster relief and domestic hunger is a first step toward helping Southern Baptists be more Christian in their attitudes and responses to poor people in the United States, said Paul Adkins, director of Christian social ministries.

"If the statistics we see are correct — 20 million people in the United States who are hungry — then the largest non-Catholic denomination needs someone who will give full time to discovering who these people are, where they are, why they are hungry and what Southern Baptists can do to alleviate their suffering," Adkins said.

Prior to his Arkadelphia pastorate, Porter, 48, spent 13 years on the HMB staff. He was associate director of the missionary personnel department from 1960 to 1968, and he was associate director of the Evangelism Division from 1968 to 1973.

While at the board, he was involved in student summer missions, started the US-2 missions program, developed strategies for student evangelism, coffeehouse ministries and beach evangelism.

He is a native of Brazil, where his parents were Southern Baptist missionaries. He is a graduate of Baylor University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He will work out of offices in his Arkadelphia home for the near future. Bullard will be responsible for helping Baptists

in cities with more than one million population develop strategies for reaching the entire city with the gospel, said Don Hammer, metropolitan mission director.

Hammer pointed out 35 percent of the people in the nation live in cities with more than one million population; yet only 12 percent of Baptists and nine percent of the churches are in the big cities.

Before going to his present position, Bullard was in Baltimore, Md., as a PACT (Project Assistance for Churches in Transition) consultant for the Baptist Convention of Maryland. He is a graduate of Mars Hill College and Southern Seminary.

In other action, directors named two mission pastors, granted church pastoral assistance to eight persons and approved four more for language pastoral assistance.

Directors also accepted resignations of staffers Frank H. Crumpler and William T. Updike. Crumpler has become pastor of Indian Creek Baptist Church of Stone Mountain, Ga., an Atlanta suburb. Updike took early retirement to become director of missions for Lawrenceville Baptist Association, also near Atlanta.

Updike became associate director of the HMB church division in 1968, following four years as metropolitan missionary for the Mid-Valley Baptist Association in California.

Judge Throws Out O'Hair Challenge To Chaplains

By Stan Hestey
WASHINGTON (BP) — Atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair has failed in the first round of her legal challenge to ban the practice of maintaining chaplains in Congress.

In an oral decision announced Jan. 6, Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled O'Hair did not have standing to bring the suit challenging the practice. His decision, announced at the conclusion of oral arguments, did not deal with the church-state arguments raised by the case.

Attorneys for both parties in the case say they expect a formal written opinion in the near future.

Reached at the Austin, Tex., headquarters of her organization, American Atheist Union, O'Hair told Baptist Press she will appeal the decision.

O'Hair sued the government last summer, arguing that employing and

paying chaplains from the federal treasury violates the Constitution's ban on an establishment of religion. Both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have been serviced by chaplains for more than 200 years.

Later this month O'Hair is to be in court on three separate occasions in other cases. On Jan. 20 she faces trial in an Austin court on criminal charges resulting from an incident three years ago in which she allegedly disrupted the city council for opening its meetings with prayer.

She has challenged the practice at the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, where oral arguments in the case are scheduled for Jan. 29.

One day earlier, Jan. 28, O'Hair will be before the same court challenging the practice of the Texas State Legislature to feature a nativity scene in the rotunda of the State Capitol each Christmas season.

Conferences Will Aid Leaders In Planning For Youth Week

My Church: A Family of Faith, the theme for Youth Week '81, is designed to help youths to understand what God wants the church to be. By looking at one's family, young people will gain biblical insight into relationships that describe the church as loving, forgiving, encouraging, and training.

Youth Week '81 will allow youth to recognize the gifts God calls them to use. The week of March 13-22, 1981, has been designated as a probable time for churches to observe Youth Week '81.

"How to Plan Youth Week '81" conferences will be held during the week of January 26-30, in conjunction with "DiscipleLife Interpretation" clinics. The 7 p.m. meetings will be held at Cold Springs Baptist Church and West Jackson Street Baptist Church in Tupelo on January 26; Greenville, First, and West Point, First, on January 27; Brookhaven, Easthaven, and Gulfport, Grace Memorial, on January 29; and at Jackson, Van Winkle, and Laurel, Highland Baptist, on January 30. Guidance in how to plan, involve youths, and experience excitement will be given at each location.

Youth Week Pak '81 is a kit filled with posters, guidebook, music and additional materials to aid in planning. The Church Training department suggests that churches purchase the Youth Week Pak before coming to the January 26-30 planning clinics. The pack is available at the Baptist Book Store.

Many associations will conduct Associational Youth Rallies on Monday,

March 16. The rallies provide fellowship and inspiration to the youth and youth leaders of an association. Suggestions for the program are in the Church Training Magazine, March 1981. Committees under the leadership of the director of missions plan, conduct, and evaluate the associational Youth Rally.

For more information contact the Church Training department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

"Preaching On Stewardship" Seminar Set

A Northeast Mississippi Seminar on "Preaching on Stewardship" is set for Jan. 26 at Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo.


The meeting will feature James Travis of Blue Mountain College, Ray Lloyd of First Baptist Church, Starkville, and Gene Henderson of Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus.

The staff of the sponsoring organization, the Cooperative Program and Stewardship departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will also be present. The seminar begins at 9:30 a.m., concluding at 2:30 p.m. Pre-registration is necessary.

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January 27	7:00 p.m.	Oxford, First Church
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Re-elected MBCB Members Listed

In the report of elections of board members following the Mississippi Baptist Convention in November the names of those members who had been re-elected to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board were omitted inadvertently because they were not listed.

Those who had served one term on the Convention Board and were re-elected to a second term were as follows:

Adams Association, Robert E. Jones; Benton, Douglas Joslin; Hinds-Madison, Mrs. Leo Murray; Lowndes, Joe McKeever; Marion, Charles Bass and David Perry; New Choctaw, Robert Lee King; Newton, R. J. Reynolds; Sharkey-Issaquena, C. A. Bozeman; Simpson, Houston Adkins; Sunflower, A. M. Moore III; Tallahatchie, Matthew L. Greer; Tishomingo, Charles Damper; Union, Robert H. Carr; Washington, Murry Alexander; Wayne, Percy Waller; Webster, Mrs. W. H. Yates; and Yazoo, Eugene H. Turner.

OLC Names Buchanan To Staff

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — John H. Buchanan, Alabama's Sixth District Republican representative to Congress for the past 16 years, has become a consultant for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission effective Jan. 1.

Buchanan, who was the only Southern Baptist minister in Congress, lost his bid for re-election when he was narrowly defeated in the Republican primary last September by a Moral Majority-supported candidate.

Florence Harris, Missionary Emeritus, Dies

Florence Harris, emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to China, died Jan. 4 in Jackson, Miss. She was 91. She had lived in Clinton most of the years since her retirement.

Funeral services were Jan. 7 at First Baptist Church, Clinton, Miss., with interment at the Clinton Cemetery. Bill Baker, pastor, First, Clinton, and Kermit D. McGregor, pastor, Morrison Heights, Clinton, officiated.

Mrs. Harris and her late husband, Hendon Mason Harris, were appointed to China in 1910. After working in education and evangelism in Kaifeng, Honan Province, they resigned in 1929. Reappointed in 1935, they returned to Kaifeng until the communist takeover forced them out in 1948. They retired in 1951. Mr. Harris died in 1961.

The former Florence Powell, Mrs. Harris was born August 12, 1889, in Saltillo, Mexico, the daughter of William and Florence Mayberry Powell, pioneer Southern Baptist missionaries to Mexico.

She attended Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, and Woman's Missionary Union Training School (now part of Southern Seminary), Louisville, Ky.

She is survived by three daughters: Mrs. Miriam Mills of Grand Rapids, Mich.; Mrs. Helen Moon of Poland, N.Y.; and Mrs. Florentina Strunk of Oak Ridge, Tenn.; three sons: Hendon Harris Jr. of Goldsboro, N.C.; Lawrence Harris of Savannah, Ga.; and Richard Harris of Washington, D.C.; one brother, Ernest Powell of Fincastle, Va.; 31 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

She was a member of First Church, Clinton. She and her husband were active in the organization of Morrison Heights Church.

In 1968, while she was living at 108 Sunset Drive, Clinton, her autobiography, *How Beautiful the Feet*, was published.



Rupe and Smith

Mississippian On 'Country Crossroads'

Rob Smith, who represents Copiah, Simpson, and Rankin Counties in the Mississippi Legislature, talked with "Country Crossroads" producer Jim Rupe about his life as a Christian entertainer and his experiences in the state legislature. The interview with Smith will be heard in March or April.

"Country Crossroads," a weekly half-hour radio program produced and distributed by the Radio and Television Commission, is heard on more than 1100 stations across the country. — Radio TV Commission Photo.

State WMU To Sponsor Trip To National Meet

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union is sponsoring a trip to the National WMU convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, with side trips to Disneyland and mission points. There will also be a bit of mission work to do.

The trip will be June 3-11, leaving from Jackson to San Diego. June 4, the group will work with Romona Baptist Church, where Mississippi Baptists helped build the facility.

The next day will have a guided tour of San Diego, with visits to churches in Tijuana. June 6 the group will visit Disneyland and go on to Los Angeles for the WMU and Southern Baptist Conventions.

June 10, there will be a guided tour of Korean and Chinese churches and Beverly Hills, with return to Mississippi on June 11.

Total cost of the trip will be \$879, plus meals.

Reservations must be in (with a \$200 deposit, checks made out to Woman's Missionary Union) by Feb. 15. Send reservations and checks to Ethel McKeithen, WMU, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

J. W. T. Siler, Minister, Dies

Services were held Jan. 5, for J. W. T. (Tom) Siler, 76, of 213 Osage Court, Lexington, Ky.

Siler, who is survived by his wife, Mary Rowe Siler, died Jan. 3, 1981.

A native of Siler, Tenn., he was a retired Baptist minister, having served since 1921 at churches in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi. He retired in 1969 from Newhebron Church, Newhebron, Miss.

He was a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and Southern Seminary in Louisville.

Other survivors include one son, William Thomas Siler, Monticello, Miss.; two daughters, Mrs. Margaret Kaiser of Lexington, Ky., and Mrs. Elliott Fleming of Clinton, Miss.; and six grandsons.

Group Sponsors Alcohol-Drug Abuse Awareness Week

For the third consecutive year, the Mississippi Foundation for Alcohol and Narcotics Education, Inc. is sponsoring "Alcohol and Drug Abuse Awareness Week" during the week of January 18-25, 1981.

The purpose of the week is to encourage ministers from all religious faiths in Mississippi to address the topics of alcoholism, drug abuse and alcohol-related traffic accidents.

At this time staffers with the following religious organizations have agreed to encourage the participation of the individual congregation leaders within their respective jurisdictions in "Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Awareness Week": the Catholic Diocese of Jackson, the Jackson Area of the United Methodist Church, the Mississippi Diocese of the Episcopal Church and the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Mississippi Baptists Named To Robison Crusade Posts

A number of Mississippi Southern Baptist churches have been named in the planning stage for the Central Mississippi James Robison Crusade, which is to be held March 22 to 27.

The crusade services will be held at 7:30 each evening in the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

John Murphey, a physician and a member of Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton, is chairman of the executive crusade committee. Ken May, who is the treasurer for the crusade, is a lay member of Forest Hill Baptist Church, Jackson.

The local crusade director is Meredith Tatum, a member of Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson.

The chairman of the attendance committee is Tommy Titus, pastor of Timberlawn Baptist Church, Jackson. Maurice Clayton, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Jackson, is chairman of the counseling committee.

Don DeGarmo, pastor of the Beulah Memorial Baptist Church in Hinds-Madison Association, is chairman of the Christian growth committee; and Glen Holmes, a member of Morrison Heights Baptist Church, is co-chairman. Cecil Harper, a member of Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson, is chairman of the music committee.

Claude Townsend, a member of First Baptist Church, Florence, is co-chairman of the prayer committee. Rodger Ownby, who is co-chairman of the publicity committee, is a member of Parkway Baptist Church.

Wayne Crenshaw, pastor of Liberty

The foundation is a non-profit corporation concerned about the problems of alcohol and drug abuse.

The Foundation was incorporated to promote and encourage responsible educational activities and programs which provide factual information on the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs; and to cooperate with and disseminate the findings of other groups engaged in responsible research and educational projects concerning alcohol and other drugs.

It also exists to promote a better understanding of the problems of individuals and families who are suffering from alcoholism and chemical drug dependency; and to oppose all efforts which promote the consumption of alcohol.

Baptist Church in Rankin Association

The co-chairman is Bill Conlee, a member of Forest Hill Baptist Church.

Robert Nations, a member of McDowell Road Baptist Church, Jackson, is chairman of the prime-time television committee. The chairman of the transportation committee is Lonnie Rushing, a member of Morrison Heights Baptist Church.

Myrtle Isonhood, a member of Burch Hill Baptist Church in Hinds-Madison Association, is chairman of the telephone committee. Sam Creel, pastor of Sunshine Baptist Church in Rankin Association, is chairman of the follow-up committee.

Bill Durr, who is a member of Morrison Heights Baptist Church, will serve as service club liaison. Bob McElhaney of Morrison Heights is chairman of the video presentation committee. Bob Megginson of Hillcrest Baptist Church is co-chairman of the youth committee.

A number of other committee positions are filled by members of Methodist churches, black Baptist churches, a Church of God pastor, independent Baptist Churches, and a non-denominational church.

Wilbur Irwin, pastor of Forest Hill Baptist Church, is credited with conceiving the idea of the James Robison crusade about a year ago, according to Murphey.

Jim Richardson is the regional crusade director for the James Robison Evangelistic Association.

Christian Action Meet To Stress Church-Public Ed

The Church and Public Education will be the theme of a one-day seminar to be held in the Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson, Feb. 23, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., under the auspices of the Christian Action Commission.

Resource persons appearing on the program will be Robert N. Fortenberry, superintendent, Jackson Public Schools; John J. Arnold, superintendent, Bolivar County School District IV, Cleveland; Charles E. Myers, pastor of Alta Woods Church; and Jerry Brumfield, president, Mississippi Association of Educators, Jackson.

The seminar is designed to explore the role of the church in meeting current challenges of public education.

"For the past several years we largely have given our attention to private school education," said J. Clark Hensley, executive director of the Christian Action Commission. "On the other hand, Baptists have been among the strongest supporters of public education and we think it timely, therefore, to examine current problems of the public schools.

We need accurate information to determine the extent church members should be involved in public education."

Fortenberry will discuss problems concerning public education in urban areas and Arnold will deal with rural areas. Myers will indicate the church's concern historically for public education. A panel discussion to be moderated by Brumfield will attempt to clarify the role of the church in meeting the challenges of our day.

Iowa Leader Retires

DES MOINES, Iowa (BP) — Wilson Parker, executive director of the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship, retired Jan. 1.

Parker, a veteran of nearly 20 years of pioneer missions work, was executive of the fellowship for two years.

Parker said he decided to take early retirement. "I'm pretty close to my regular retirement age and this seemed to be the time to do it," Parker will be 64 next July.

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

The national scene . . .

As the time has wound down for the change in administrations for our nation, two Mississippi pastors have expressed feelings concerning issues that have confronted the old administration and challenges with which the administration has had to cope. Both reflect the need for prayer relating to our nation's affairs.

Joe McKeever, pastor of First Baptist Church, Columbus, penned "A Prayer for the Hostage Situation," which appeared on the front of the church bulletin for Jan. 1. It reads:

O Lord,
Our nation has been brought to its knees by the events in Iran. From that position, we now pray.

We pray,
Not for the triumph of political schemes and deals, not for the salvaging of our national honor, and not merely for the safety and release of the

fifty-two hostages.

We pray for a sequence of events that shall miraculously deliver the hostages, amaze and dumbfound politicians in all countries, direct every man's thoughts toward Thee as the True and Only God, rescue an America now held hostage by humanism and materialism, by aimlessness and selfishness, turning it back to Thee.

We pray, as David spoke before Goliath, "That all the earth may know there is a God in Israel."

In the strong name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Walter A. Price, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fulton, has addressed a situation that caused most of us to pause for contemplation, regardless of our political affiliation. It reflects on the attitude of the people toward those in office. It is "An Open Letter to the President," and it reads:

Dear Mr. President:

I didn't vote for you. Lest this letter be construed as just another partisan pat-on-the-back, I want that to be known. This letter is not political at all.

This letter is a thank-you note, purely and simply. Thank you for being "my" President for the past four years. It saddens me to see what this country does to its leaders. I am well aware that when a man seeks the office he also seeks the opposition which is incumbent therein. However, we seem to have made an art of using our leaders as whipping-posts. It saddens me to see how men are aged drastically by this office. It saddens me to see a wife who has always pictured graciousness and charm to have her face plainly marked with lines of bitterness. Forgive us for the lack of gratitude we show one in a thank-less job.

Many were the times in the past four years when I agreed with you on issues. Many were the times when I disagreed with you. But, again, my purpose here is not to enumerate those times. For most often in these past four years have been the times when I prayed for you. Perhaps the greatest promise I could make to you is that I will bathe your successor in that same prayer.

Thank you for doing the job as you saw it, for I believe with all my heart that you have followed your convictions. We could ask no more nor should we ask for less from any man.

So thank you, Mr. President, just for being President. Most of the rest of us wouldn't dare take the challenge.

Respectfully yours,
Walter A. Price, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Fulton



"THEY'VE ALREADY VOTED TO SEND THEIR PASTOR TO THE CONVENTION IN LOS ANGELES NEXT JUNE."

Letters To The Editor

Ministry in India

Editor:
I want to thank you for the book review. Anne McWilliams did a good job, and I feel very flattered by her comments. I was very surprised over the lack of response to the review. . . then it struck me. I never read reviews until I began to look for mine in the Record. I wonder how many other people neglect to read the reviews.

Elven and I thought the sale of the book could help to pay our way to India. We plan to be gone for six months on an evangelism mission there. We can now get a six-month visa, so plan to take advantage of it. It will be quite costly, but the work is needed so desperately.

"God's Ragdoll," my book, (\$5.00), is selling real well in our meetings, and even the children are enjoying reading it. However, we do not have many meetings between now and summer. We had planned to be in India this winter so did not schedule any. We pray that we can leave next September.

I am very excited about the future.
Molly Fairchild
Moselle, Miss. 39459

Make Your Will Month

Editor:
Since this is Make Your Will month in Mississippi I want to share with you the blessing this can be to a church.

Some years ago the Mississippi Baptist Foundation was called on to assist in making the will for a fine couple in our church. Bro. and Mrs. Tidwell had been faithful to their church until their health failed them. They loved their church and wanted to see that the ministry continued after they were gone. So, they left the major part of their estate to the church.

As of yet we have not decided what is the best way to use this money. Their generous gift will enable us to pay off the balance of our bonds or we most likely will construct a Children's Building that is desperately needed in our growing area of the state.

The emphasis on Make Your Will month is vital to the growing work of the kingdom of God.

Don Henderson, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Nesbit

"Government by the People"

Editor:
Your editorial that appeared in the December 18, 1980, edition of the Record urging readers to become involved in the political process and aid in the running of our government was extremely well written and displays the true American spirit of government on the basis of individual participation.

All citizens, Baptist or not, should heed the clarion call of this editorial and not only exercise their God-given and constitution-given right, but fulfill their duty and obligation to assist in the governing process.

Don A. Gill
Jackson

Builder Needed

Editor:
Could you please run the following notice in your paper. We have a real need here and believe that God has someone among your readers to help meet that need. We would be forever grateful for your help.

I am a native of Mississippi and our church is grateful for all the help we have received from Mississippi Baptists.

We need a retired builder, to coordinate the construction of a church building in Springfield, Vermont. For more information contact Aubrey Jones, 6 Curtis St., Springfield, Vt. 05156. Ph. 802-885-5855.

Aubrey Jones, Pastor
Precision Valley Baptist Church
Springfield, Vt.

An ounce of performance is worth more than a pound of preaching. — Elbert Hubbard

The hardest trial of the heart is whether it can hear of a rival's failure without a feeling of triumph. — Conrad Aiken

He who wants to keep his garden tidy doesn't reserve a plot for weeds. — Dag Hammarskjöld

Grumbling requires no talent, no self-denial, no brains, no character. — O. S. Marden

The 1981 legislative session . . .

Additional pre-filed bills are listed

The 1981 session of the Mississippi Legislature is under way, and a number of additional bills were pre-filed before the session began. In order that readers will be able to keep up as nearly as possible with what will be going on this year in the Legislature, we are listing a number of those bills which would seem to be of interest. It is certainly not too early to be in touch with legislators to express opinions about pending legislation.

A number of pre-filed bills were presented in two issues in December. These are the additional bills pre-filed before the beginning of the session.

In the House of Representatives these bills would seem to be of interest:

H 115 by Cates and Presley would reduce the percentage of alcohol content required to presume someone was intoxicated while driving. It has been sent to the Judiciary A Committee.

H 116 by Hanson and others would revise the definition of drug paraphernalia and would prescribe penalties relating to such paraphernalia.

H 126 by Jackson would delete the repealer provision relating to a 3 per cent markup on alcoholic beverages for the purpose of funding alcoholism treatment and rehabilitation programs. This in effect would leave the 3 per cent markup in effect for such rehabilitation. Ways and Means Committee.

H 140 by Albritton would provide for balanced treatment of creationism and evolution in the elementary and secondary public schools. Education Committee.

H 159 by Andrews would provide

mandatory jail sentence for any person bringing controlled drug substances into this state with intent to sell. Judiciary A Committee.

H 161 by Dollar would reduce the percent of alcohol content required to be present in one's blood in order to presume that such person was intoxicated while driving. Judiciary A Committee.

HCR 9 by Horton would make application to the U.S. Congress by the State of Mississippi for calling a convention to prepare an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to prohibition of most abortions. Rules Committee.

In the Senate these bills would seem to be of interest:

S 2117 by Gresham would delete the repealer provision relating to the 3 per cent markup on alcoholic beverages for funding alcoholism treatment and rehabilitation programs. Finance Committee.

S 2164 by Ellington would provide religious exemption from immunization practices may be ordered on behalf of children by their parents because such immunization practices are against their religious beliefs. Judiciary Committee.

S 2168 by Stringer and Pittman would require the State Board of Education to issue rules and regulations assuring academic freedom by requiring the teaching and presentation of scientific creationism in public schools if the theory of evolution is taught. Education Committee.

S 2183 by Burkes would delete the repealer provision relating to a 3 per cent markup on alcoholic beverages for funding alcoholism treatment and

rehabilitation. Finance Committee.

S 2186 by Maloney would prohibit possession of firearms by persons participating in or attending demonstrations in public places. Judiciary Committee.

S 2190 by Martin T. Smith would insert the word "cocaine" in the definition section and in Schedule II of the controlled substance list. Judiciary Committee.

S 2195 by Martin T. Smith would redefine the term "manufacturer" and would include the word "cocaine" in the definition of "narcotic drug." Judiciary Committee.

S 2206 by Stringer and others would make it unlawful to transfer any "drug-related" object, would prescribe penalties for such transfer, and would define the term "drug-related." Judiciary Committee.

S 2231 by Rhodes would authorize package retail permittees to sell alcoholic beverages to customers through vending machines. Finance Committee.

S 2253 by Stringer would prohibit the sale of any beer or wine to any person under the age of 21. Judiciary Committee.

S 2280 by Rhodes would create a church land classification of 16th section land, specify annual rental, and require a 25-year lease. Judiciary Committee.

S 2284 by Burkes and others would provide that privately supported children's homes cannot be exempt from regulation by the State Department of Public Welfare be accredited by the National Association of Homes for

Children in order to retain an exempt status. Public Health and Welfare Committee.

S 2293 by Scoper would revise the definition of the term "paraphernalia" as used in the Uniform Controlled Substances Law and prescribe penalties. Judiciary Committee.

S 2295 by Nix would exempt sales to churches from sales tax. Finance Committee.

S 2307 by Davis would add an additional 5 per cent markup to the wholesale price of alcoholic beverages and wines. Finance Committee.

There is no established procedure for communicating opinions to legislators. The telephone, of course, is an effective method; but it might tie up the legislator at an inappropriate time. A letter is always effective and can be read at the legislator's convenience. Opinions could be sent to the person who has authored a bill to express support or opposition. Additionally, it would be effective to write to chairmen of committees which bills be considered. Bills, for the chairmen exercise some amount of control over such discussions. Also it is well to write to individual members of these committees. Then it is always appropriate to write to the senator or representative from the district of the letter writer.

As soon as the committee structures are made available to the Baptist Record, they will be printed. They should be available next week. Good government in a democracy depends on the involvement of the constituents. As citizens of this state we are duty bound to participate in its affairs. Let us not fail.

Faith seeking understanding . . .

What do we believe about God?

By Frank Staggs

Biblical writers think of God in personal terms as one who speaks, judges, saves, loves, commands, comforts, rejoices, shows displeasure, forgives, and gives. Person may not be an adequate term or category for God, but it is the highest known to us and is biblical. Never do biblical writers think of God as something abstract or impersonal, as the "unmoved mover" or "first

cause." God is addressed, as a person is addressed.

To think of God in personal terms is sometimes called anthropomorphism, i.e., ascribing to God the form of man ("Man" used here generically, not as male.) For two reasons the Christian must continue to so think of God, despite the charge. One is that man cannot escape from the thought patterns and language of man. Man is anthropos (Greek for man); and therefore, his language will be anthropomorphic, man-like. The other reason is that, in biblical teaching, God is more like man than anything else known to man, for God made man in his own likeness. It is as a free, moral agent, consciously so and responsible, that man (male and female, as in Gen. 1:27) is made in the likeness of God.

Knowing God

As personal, God is one to meet and know, to trust and love, to enjoy and serve. God is knowable to us. Jesus taught that eternal life consists of knowing God (John 17:3). This saving knowledge is not the knowledge one has of a fact or thing. It is acquaintance with a person. When a person knows a person, it is a different kind of relationship than when a person knows a thing. To know a thing is to know an object, but the object does not know the person by whom it is known. To know a person is to know another subject. The subject is another "I" and "I" know self. The knowledge of God is knowledge between two subjects or persons. Each knows and is known (Gal. 4:9).

God is known through what he does. Not only did he create the world, but he so acts within history as to make himself known, as when he delivered the Israelites from Egypt. The supreme event in which he has made himself known is that in which the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Since God is personal, his supreme self-reve-

lation is in a person, Jesus Christ.

God, as personal, may be known, but he does not require to be "proven." Biblical writers never try to prove the existence of God. He is not known as the conclusion to an argument or a deduction from logic. God is known as a person encountered. He comes to us demanding obedience and as one to be worshipped, not as a proposition to be proven or explained. We explain nature but we understand persons. We cannot explain any person; and surely we cannot and need not explain God. The Bible is concerned that we know and understand him. This takes place in a relationship of trust and love.

The Oneness of God

God is one (Deut. 6:4ff.; Mark 12:29). He is not many, nor three, nor two, but one. Monotheism rules both Old and New Testaments. There is one God, known to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The New Testament makes no room for "tritheism." The term trinity represents a serious attempt to understand the New Testament, but it is well to remember that the term "trinity" does not appear in the Bible, it does not speak of "three persons of the trinity." This is the language of tradition and not of the Bible. God is known as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but he is not divided up into three, either in person or in time. "God is one" (1 Tim. 2:5), and it is he who came in Jesus Christ. Christ is not another God, but the God of Abraham. It is he who comes as the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is God present uniquely and supremely in a human life, the Word made flesh (John 1:14). The Holy Spirit is the same God, present to us any time, anywhere. See further, the author's book *The Holy Spirit Today* (Broadman Press, 1973).

Otherness and Relatedness
God is both "another" and one related to us. He is "transcendent" and "immanent." That is to say, God is

other than anything or anyone else; yet he is related to his creation. Pantheism holds that God is everything and everything is God. The Bible rules out this. God was in the beginning, before anything else was. God is: all else becomes. God is other than anything or anyone else. Humanism holds that God is simply the highest quality or attainment of humanity. This is foreign to the Bible. Although God is met where man meets man, as when a cup of cold water is given in the name of Christ (Matt. 25:31-46), God is other than the persons in whom we meet him.

God is immanent or present in the world and in history. Deism would relegate God to the remotest distance, but the Bible knows him as near, as near as breathing. Gnosticism held that God as spirit could not be related to matter, which it considered evil. The Bible holds that God is related to it as its creator and sustainer (Col. 1:16f.). More than that, God is so related to the world that the Word could become flesh and dwell among us (John 1:1, 14). God is distinguishable from all that he has made, never to be confused with anything or anyone else. At the same time, God is related, so bound up with his people that what is done to them is done to him (Matt. 25:31-46; Acts 9:4; 1 John 4:20).

God Is Love

God is love (1 John 4:8), but he is more. Love is not God. The love which God is, is not an emotion so much as a disposition in God to relate himself to us for our good, whatever the cost. What is meant by saying that God is love is best understood by observing Jesus Christ in his self-denial and self-giving. God is as we see him in Jesus Christ (John 14:9). God's love is holy and righteous. It is not indulgence; it is the creative love which redeems, whatever the judgment required.

Book Reviews

WHY CHRISTIAN MARRIAGES ARE BREAKING UP by Gerald L. Dahl (Thomas Nelson, 142 pp., \$5.95). The author describes the increase in divorces of Christian couples as "an epidemic." He says that "evangelical churches in particular . . . by placing too many demands on their members' time can exert pressure on already strained relationships." Dahl, a marriage counselor in a Minneapolis psychiatric clinic, has developed techniques for mending seemingly hopeless marriages. He states, "Divorce is not a solution. It is simply an exchange of one set of problems for another," and then goes on to relate the practical solutions that have worked for his patients.

LAYMAN'S BIBLE BOOK COMMENTARY, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, by Dan G. Kent (Broadman, 154 pp., \$4.25). This is the eighth of 24 volumes of this work that will appear every three months through July, 1984. (The one on Romans and I Corinthians by J. W. MacGorman was published in October of 1980.) Kent is associate professor of religion at Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex. The three books, Joshua, Judges, and Ruth, have their setting in a similar period of history. Each Bible book is treated as a whole to reveal its basic message with some passages getting special attention. The Bible text used is the Revised Standard Version.

I SAILED WITH SAUL OF TARSAUS by William N. McElrath, illustrated by Cliff Johnston (Broadman, 96 pp., \$5.95). William McElrath, missionary to Indonesia, has written this exciting imaginary story of a 15-year-old boy who sailed on the ship with Paul on the way to Rome and experienced ship-

wreck. Though the book is fiction, it is based on careful research in the areas of history and geography, as well as Bible research. McElrath's skill in writing is clear. Adults as well as younger readers will learn more here about Paul, his times and his beliefs.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF GOD by Lloyd John Ogilvie (Regal Books, \$8.95, 320 pp.). The author, as he studied and preached on the parables, came to the conviction that Jesus' "heavenly stories with an earthly meaning" are all aspects of the autobiography of God, written through His Son. Each parable contains a basic element of the nature of God and how He works in human lives. Ogilvie, who is senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Hollywood, Calif., in this book comments on over 30 of Jesus' parables. He researched the parables with a five-fold strategy: What was the context that motivated the parable? What is the main point? What does the main point tell us about God? If I believe this truth, what will I do? How can I live this parable as part of my citizenship in the Kingdom of God?

THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND by Jill Briscoe (Doubleday, 192 pp., \$5.95). This book, written in a readable, positive way, is the story of a spiritual and emotional journey that will inspire women to appreciate and reevaluate their relationships with their fellow sisters. Jill Briscoe tells of ten women who shared their lives with her, and who contributed to her own Christian growth—her older sister; a hospital roommate; a college friend; her mother-in-law; and five others. The author is a native of England. Her husband, Stuart Briscoe, is pastor of Elmbrook Church, Milwaukee, Wis.

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Dennis Conniff, Jr.

Judy Shelton sent invitations to everyone in the Baptist Building to come to the Sky Room Dec. 15 to eat potluck lunch and to toast Dennis Conniff, Jr., who was retiring Dec. 31 after 17 years and eight months with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, six years as church architectural consultant, and before that as associate in the Sunday School department. (Judy is his secretary). Nobody wanted to miss a chance like that. Some folks who had plenty to say were Roy Colburn, Cliff Perkins, Judd Allen, Bill Sellers, Dr. Kelly, and Dennis' successor, Neron Smith. If I'd been the judge, though, I'd have given the prize to Guy Henderson. Here's a sample:

... His contribution to the Baptists may pierce the sky
With steeples of copper, but something's a-say—
How come it is that Santa's afraid?
To try the rooftop with the reindeer-led sleigh?

Once before on the rooftop the eight tiny reindeer
Were not to be seen; in this moment of fear
The roof had crashed in, the people were miffed
The sign read for certain, "Designed by Conniff."

I remember one building designed like a pretzel
The architectural world had produced its first Edsel
The leaning tower of Pisa for him would be first rate
His only apartment building was called Watergate.

Custer was a winner and Vicksburg didn't fall
The Little Big Horn produced heroes and Rome survived all
Waterloo stands for victory and Nixon's nose can't sniff
The Titanic will be raised if we honor Conniff...

Now Dennis has retired, and I expect he's busy straightening his files. He told me it would take him all of January and February to do that, for he has 300 boxes of slides and pictures—45,000 photographs of railroad locomotives—in his 18 x 20 garage in Mayfair, south Jackson. In fact, he and his family have a home business, selling and exchanging such pictures with people all over the world.

This spring he and his wife plan to circle the U.S. and Canada by train.

Way back in 1965 I found out about the Conniffs' fascinating collection of railroadiana, and there's no telling how much they've added since then. To give you an idea, they have a

bench from Century, Fla., a depot clock from Tallapoosa, Ga., ticket stampers, oil cans, boiler inspectors' hammers, engineers' clothes boxes, switchman's lanterns, model railroads, records of steam whistles, and every commemorative stamp ever issued on railroading. His most prized item, Dennis said, is the headlight from Engine 35 which his engineer father ran for the Woodward Iron Works at Birmingham, Ala. This hobby, he told me some time ago, has given him many contacts that provided him with interesting and unusual opportunities.

The first train ride that really stands out in his memory was one he took in

1923, when he was ten years old and he and his mother and three brothers went from Birmingham to Houston, Texas, to visit his aunt. They stopped to spend the night in New Orleans, and then the train for lack of a bridge crossed the Mississippi River on a barge, 12 or 14 cars at a time.

Dennis collects coins, too. "But Mildred is the only antique I've collected," he said. "Her father was my friend until I married his daughter, and then I lost my friend!" He married Mildred Jacobs of Bessemer Feb. 2, 1937. They have two sons and three grandchildren. Dennis III is adult consultant, Sunday School department,

Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and Charles has a position in tariff and marketing with Ergon Oil Co.

Dennis Conniff, Jr. was born April 18, 1913. At age 11 he was baptized at Woodlawn Baptist Church, Birmingham. His father, who had been reared as a Catholic, made a profession of faith on Monday night during a revival and Dennis made his decision on Friday night of the same week. They were both baptized in the same service.

He was graduated from Howard College (Samford) and Southwestern Seminary and did special study at Southern Seminary.

He was transferred to Jackson from Mobile, where he had been minister of education at Dauphin Way Church. Other places of denominational service: director of missions, Columbia Association, Dothan, Ala.; associate in the Alabama Sunday School department; minister of education at First Church and later at Hunter Street Church in Birmingham.

He and his wife are members of First Church, Jackson.

Wednesday morning, Dec. 31, we had a Hallelujah Party during coffee-break time, since it was Dennis' last day to work on stamp collectin' or go fishin'...

all this roasting and hallelujah stuff is only done in jest, because actually I think Dennis is a pretty nice guy!



"Pardon me, boys/Is that the Baptist Building Choo-Choo/Retirement Line?/ Engineer Conniff's fine/He can afford to board the Baptist Building Choo-Choo/He's got his fare/And saved a few coins to spare/He'll leave the Baptist Building Station/ 'bout a quarter to four/Read the Baptist Record/'til he gets to his door/Supper in the kitchen/And his wife wishin'/That he'd work on stamp collectin' or go fishin'..."

"Engineers" singing at the Conniff Roast were, left to right: Vonda Clower, Clyde Nettles, Bill Sellers, Don Smith, Don McGregor, and Jerry Merriman. Words of the song were written by Nan Grantham.

SBC, Others To Examine Government Intervention

WASHINGTON (BP) — Southern Baptists will join representatives of more than 50 religious groups in a conference on government intervention in religious affairs Feb. 11-13 at Bethesda, Md., a Washington, D.C., suburb.

With 450 Protestant, Catholic and Jewish participants representing religious bodies with more than 121 million adherents, sponsors believe the conference will be one of the most inclusive gatherings in the country's history. The conference will focus on a wide range of issues from tax exemption to governmental restraint on "political" activities of religious bodies.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, cited the importance of the conference, calling government intrusion in religious affairs "one of the most critical issues" facing Southern Baptists and the entire religious community during the decade of the '80s.

Other participating religious groups include the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., the United States Catholic Conference, the Synagogue Council of America, the National Association of Evangelicals and the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A.

The conference will open with a keynote address on "government as big brother to religious bodies" by prominent church-state attorney William Bentley Ball of Harrisburg, Pa.

Among the other topics to be discussed by an impressive list of church-state experts are: regulation of charitable solicitations, lobby disclosure requirements, unemployment compensation taxation of religious agencies, Internal Revenue Service treatment of religious bodies and their integrated auxiliaries, state regulation of parochial schools, and intelligence agency use of clergy as informants.

Admission to the conference is by invitation only. The SBC is allowed 35 participants based on a quota system.

Southern Gives Degrees

Four Mississippians were among the 225 students who received degrees from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., during commencement exercises Dec. 19.

The Doctor of Philosophy degree was awarded to Gregory C. Earwood, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Earwood of Corinth, while the Master of Church Music degree was conferred upon Tony L. Gray, son of William W. Gray, of Natchez, Donald Clark Measels, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Measels, of Morton, and Randall Shed Weeks of Madison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Shed H. Weeks.

LARRY L. ROSE, executive director of the Waco (Tex.) Baptist Association, has been named to head the new Center for Urban Church Studies, to be located in Nashville, Tenn. Formed as a joint venture by five agencies and the seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention, the center will provide urban studies research and consultation to help Southern Baptists reach people for Christ and build churches in urban areas of the world. Rose began his work Jan. 1.

Missionaries Must Say Farewell To Bukittinggi

By Anita Bowden

BUKITTINGGI, Indonesia (BP) — Immanuel Hospital faces the main road into Bukittinggi, proof that those who predicted the hospital would never be built in the strong Moslem community underestimated the persistence and faith of Southern Baptist missionaries in Indonesia.

Now, with increasing opposition from Moslem leaders who have pressured the government to get rid of the Christian influence in Bukittinggi, they now face the difficult task of leaving Immanuel and relocating.

"We're just taking it one day at a time," says Win Applewhite, Southern Baptist missionary physician and hospital director. "We'll continue working here as long as we can, but make plans to move when we have to."

Applewhite says he and his wife, LaVerne, and nurse Everley Hayes knew it wouldn't be easy when they agreed to open the hospital in Bukittinggi. Moslem leaders had fought any kind of Christian medical work since 1962 when missionary Frank Owen moved there with the idea of opening a clinic and establishing a 50-bed hospital. He opened a clinic in 1965 and was instrumental in land negotiations, but died in 1970 before hospital construction was completed.

When the Applewhites arrived in 1972, the shell of the building was up,

spent the next years trying to get everything finished up and then trying to get permission to open it," Applewhite says. "Every stage had to be approved by the governor's office and the same people who had objected originally made all kinds of efforts to block it." Before they left on furlough in 1975 the Applewhites had gathered a group of medical and professional people ready to staff the hospital as soon as it opened. Then in December 1975, missionary Kathleen Jones and a nucleus of workers from Baptist Hospital in Kediri, Indonesia, arrived to open the outpatient clinic. Hospital wards opened the following year.

The 50-bed hospital currently averages 40 resident patients and between 380 and 400 people receive care through the outpatient clinic each week. Most patients come from among the 80,000 residents in the Bukittinggi area, but some come from as far away as Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, some 600 miles away.

Although not everyone on staff is a Christian, Applewhite says most are and the others are chosen carefully with the hope they will fit in well.

"Because we have been told we cannot overtly witness, the pressure is on us to be Christians. We remind each other of it every day. This is the one chance that we've got — to really be a Christian in the way we do things — the way we deal with everybody. I think we have established a reputation for being kind to people," Applewhite says.

Although overt witnessing is not allowed, he says the staff has many opportunities to witness secondarily. An example of this occurred when a woman of the Batak tribe in North Sumatra was in the obstetrical ward. The Bataks baptize and name their babies soon after delivery. In this case someone on the staff began talking to the new mother about her baby's name and mentioned that Baptists don't baptize their babies. That prompted questions from the Batak woman and the staff member was able to explain the plan of salvation while the whole ward listened. Sometimes one of the Minang nurses will ask questions, too, Applewhite says.

Witnessing reaches out to the community through good medical care and especially after a spectacular operation. One poor family from an outlying community brought their little girl to the hospital. She had a harelip and her teeth had come in at odd positions along the deformity. Hers was the only Christian family in the village and Moslem leaders had told her parents her deformity was punishment for their Christian beliefs.

Applewhite and the operating staff took out a chunk of her upper jawbone, teeth and everything, turned it down and wired her teeth in place until it healed. Then they repaired the

By Norman Jameson
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The top five churches accounted for fully one percent of the baptisms recorded by 35,600 Southern Baptist churches in the past five years.

Those churches, which varied annually, baptized 18,410 persons while the rest of the convention baptized, 1,856,783. That means 500 churches with a similar average would have accomplished the number of baptisms it took 35,600 to achieve.

First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.; First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; and North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz., were one-two-three from 1975 to 1978. In

1979, San Jacinto Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas, led with 1,174 baptisms and the other three stayed in order but dropped one notch.

Other churches which occupied occasionally space among the top five in that five-year span were Bellevue Baptist, Memphis, Tenn.; Rehoboth Baptist in Tucker, Ga.; Beverly Hills Baptist, Dallas, Texas; First Baptist, Dallas, Texas, and Eastwood Baptist, Tulsa, Okla.

An analysis of the five leading churches over the past 20 years, as determined by church letter statistics, reveals that only 28 churches appear in what is potentially 100 spots.

First Baptist, Dallas, leads in ap-

pearances among the top five with 16, but it did not lead the convention in that 20-year period. First Southern Baptist, Del City, appears in the top five 14 times and led the convention seven times, including five straight years, 1974-78. Only three other churches led as often as twice. They were Tower Grove, St. Louis, 1960, 1962; San Antonio South, 1963, 1966, and First Baptist, Houston, 1971-72.

Except for First, Dallas, and First Southern, Del City, the leaders of the 1960s almost without exception do not appear in the 1970s and the leaders of the '70s are not among the top five in the 1960s.

For example, Mid-City Baptist in New Orleans led the convention with 402 baptisms in 1961 and was among the top five eight times between 1961-69. It hasn't appeared since. First Baptist, Amarillo's four appearances were between 1960-65. North Phoenix has been in the list seven times, all since 1970.

Baptisms by the leading churches have increased dramatically over the past 20 years. In 1960, Tower Grove in St. Louis led the convention with 481. The top five churches averaged 306.

In 1979 when San Jacinto's 1,174 baptisms led the convention, First Southern, Del City, had 1,105 and the top five together averaged 939.

Though the number of baptisms by the top five churches has not increased every year since 1960, the rise has been steady. The average dipped to 288 in 1965; then began a slow growth to 369 in 1970.

In 1971, due primarily to a protracted crusade, First Baptist Church in Houston broke the mythical "thousand" barrier when it baptized 1,669, more than three times as many as second place Mt. View in El Paso, Texas.

It's a record that will stand only until this year's church letters are released because First Southern, Del City, where Southern Baptist Convention President Bailey Smith is pastor, has already baptized nearly 1,800, including 881 during a three-week summer outdoor crusade.

"Any church will be evangelistic if the pastor teaches it," says Smith. "Leadership is everything. A church will not overcome its pastor."

Smith says people are easier to reach now than ever before, but few churches have a great evangelistic emphasis. People are going to the churches where the gospel is preached and evangelism is emphasized, which gives the few a chance to baptize more, he says.

Two instances graphically illustrate the significance of leadership. Miami Northwest led the convention in baptisms in 1965 under the leadership of Homer Lindsay Jr. When Lindsay went to Jacksonville, Miami Northwest dropped from among the leaders and in 1973, Jacksonville led the convention with 636 baptisms. It's been in the top three ever since.

First Baptist Church in Merritt Island, Fla., led the convention in 1979 with 395 baptisms and was in the first five four times in six years under Adrian Rogers. When Rogers went to Bellevue in Memphis, Merritt Island's baptisms diminished in position and Bellevue shortly appeared near the top.

harelip. Her father took pictures back to the village to show how the repair was progressing and "now several want to come down" for repair jobs themselves, he says.

Most of the bed patients and the people who come to the clinic would be unable to pay major medical bills from large city hospitals. Realizing this, the staff at Immanuel charges a minimal fee for services but still manages to run an economical hospital.

Five years ago the Foreign Mission Board appropriated \$20,000 for the first year's operations, Applewhite says. By 1979 the figure had reached \$39,000. But even with inflation running between 10 and 20 percent yearly, Applewhite says \$4,000 was left at the end of 1979 and no increase was requested for 1980. Surgery prices have increased.

Clinic charges haven't changed.

The staff also has been successful in a major community goal.

"When we first came here we decided on a goal of changing the atmosphere in the community in 15 years so people could become Christian without being ostracized," LaVerne says. "When we came, Christians here were completely ostracized. Their children couldn't go to school, they lost inheritance..."

Now, Applewhite says: "We can look out front and see those Moslem people who have made pilgrimages to be seen. They know us and they like us and laugh and talk to us and they accept us. They invite us to their homes and we go."

"There are a number of Minangs in the area who are underground Christ-

Missionaries' Daughter Dies In Truck Collision In Texas

WARREN, Texas (BP) — Danna Ruth Mines, daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries Donald E. and Margie Deloach Mines in Argentina, was one of two persons killed in a head-on collision early Jan. 3 near Warren, Texas.

Miss Mines, 19, was a freshman at Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas. She and Dennis Warren, student and part-time instructor at Lamar, were returning to Woodville from Beau-

mont in dense fog when their pickup truck collided head-on with a tractor trailer, driven by William Argabright of Fred, Texas. Argabright also died in the accident and Warren is in fair condition at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont. Miss Mines was spending the Christmas holidays with her grandmother, Mrs. J. T. Deloach of Woodville.

Mines is from DeLand, Fla., and Mrs. Mines is from Fort Worth, Texas.

Hungarian Baptist Churches Increase Building Programs

BUDAFOK, Hungary (BP) — Hungarian Baptists are constructing new church buildings at a rate unparalleled in recent times, according to a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Staffer.

After a tour of Baptist work in Hungary, J. D. Hughey, the board's director for Europe and the Middle East, said he was impressed by the vitality of the churches and the hospitality of the people.

The Hungarian government has given Baptists permission to build 20 churches, Hughey said. Many of them already are under construction.

"It is extremely important in communist countries to have buildings," he said, "because worship is allowed only in officially recognized places of worship."

Hughey said he preached in Budafok to approximately 150 people in an 80-year-old building that belonged to a German Baptist group before World War II. The congregation is renting the building from the government while constructing its own building with a seating capacity of 500-600, a short distance away.

The church has already spent \$100,000 on the project, all but \$4,000 coming from local funds, Hughey said. The completed building will cost \$250,000. Only two workers on the project are paid—the rest are volunteers from the predominantly young congregation. The government does not include that labor.

Often, funds have been depleted, but

contributions on Sunday would enable them to continue building the next week. Many of the families give 20 to 30 percent of their income to the church, Hughey added.

The church, Hughey says, is typical of the churches in this Eastern European country which have building projects

underway. "Southern Baptists have each year, for a number of years, given a small amount to help with buildings," he said. "We have a great opportunity now to help Hungarian Baptists construct buildings that are needed and that have government authority."

Injured Missionary Doctor Improving In Ghana Hospital

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Walter Moore, Southern Baptist medical missionary seriously injured in a traffic accident near Tamale, Ghana, has been transferred to Baptist Medical Centre, Nalerigu, Ghana, where he is improving.

Moore's head and chest injuries have improved, but he will be in a cast for some time because of a broken

kneecap, said Betty Kay Abell, administrative assistant for West Africa for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Because of a medical personnel shortage in Ghana, Moore has been carrying medical and administrative duties at the Baptist hospital, as well as working in public health.

MasterLife Interpretation Clinics

January 26	7:00 p.m.	Hattiesburg, First Church
January 27	10:00 a.m.	Jackson, Oak Forest Church
January 27	7:00 p.m.	Oxford, First Church
January 28	10:00 a.m.	Winona, First Church

Volunteers Needed To Provide Medical Team Shot In The Arm

By Mike Livingston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — While Southern Baptists' overseas health care ministry may not be on its last leg, the program suffers from an acute lack of personnel, says Harold Hurst, medical resources consultant of the Foreign Mission Board.

"There is a desperate need for the medical personnel just to adequately carry on the health care ministries we are already committed to," Hurst said.

Hurst said needs include both short-term volunteers to work with the four medical disaster relief teams, as well as long-term, career medical missionaries.

Short-term needs include doctors, dentists, nurses and logistic experts to rebuild the disaster teams, all seriously understaffed, especially in physicians.

Long-term needs are critical, Hurst says, as requests for medical missionaries far out-distance actual appointments.

What is needed around the world, he said, is for "Southern Baptists to put people where their mouths are and to send out professional people who are willing to lay their lives on the line in developing a health care ministry that will reach out and touch."

The disaster medical team of 12 to 15 men and women must be ready to leave their jobs in the United States

and respond within 48 hours to natural disasters anywhere in the world. Since the teams were formed in 1977, there has been an average of three alerts per year, mostly in response to earthquakes and hurricanes in the Caribbean.

The disaster medical teams of 12 to 15 men and women must be ready to leave their jobs in the United States and respond within 48 hours to natural disasters anywhere in the world.

Conditions the teams serve under are often comparable to wartime, and Hurst is quick to inform would-be volunteers of that fact.

In the September issue of "Missionary Medicine," a quarterly bulletin which Hurst edits, he wrote: "Medical disaster personnel needed. Willing to serve two to four weeks, no salary, no expense provided. No frills. No comfort. Long hours and fatigue guaranteed. Many spiritual blessings."

Hurst said medical team No. 1, which is always the first unit called, has had as many as 20 members, but is now down to 12. The other teams also are operating without sufficient personnel.

But if Hurst's concern for short-term personnel is serious, his concern for

long-term needs is critical. "In 1978 we had requests for 95 career medical missionaries with those being for physicians," he explained. "We appointed four." This year, with 34 career physician requests, none has been appointed.

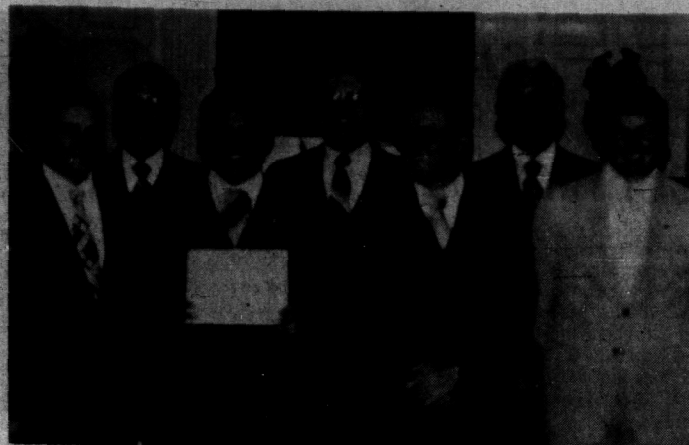
Hurst said that even if all of the requests were met, there still would be enough personnel to maintain the health care ministries Southern Baptists are already committed to. "I wonder if we dare call that bold?" he asked.

"I believe if Southern Baptists are informed and if they are challenged, the medical professionals needed around the world will be found," he said.

Hurst suggested a formula by which the needs can be met: "If every state convention were to produce only one physician, two nurses, an occasional dentist, plus some ancillary personnel every two years, all of our needs would be met."

"I don't believe anything less could be called bold health care advances," said Hurst. "And there are probably no better doors for reaching people for Jesus than through medical evangelism."

"Medical evangelism is really what we are talking about," he said. "Every medical missionary has as his goal to place before every individual to whom he ministers the claims of Christ on his life. Hurting people listen, and listening people hear Jesus Christ speaking to them."



FMB Recognizes Mantee Volunteer

James W. Cecil, volunteer service overseas consultant for the Foreign Mission Board, presented certificates of recognition to six men Nov. 23 at the Mantee Church. These men were in Paris, France Aug. 26-Sept. 5, 1980, to work with the Rue de Lille Baptist Church in a renovation project of its 106-year-old building.

The men are (left to right, first row): Donnie Womack, Jimmy Stevens, Guthrie Hunter, Lloyd Dewberry (FBC, Maben), and (left to right, second row): James Cecil (FMB), Paul Thibodeaux (pastor of Mantee Church), Billy Carter.

HMB Sets New Policy On Bivocational Work

ATLANTA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has outlined a new policy on its relationships with bivocational pastors.

The new policy was necessary, according to James Nelson, director of the associational missions division at the board, because the numbers of bivocational pastors has mushroomed in the past five years.

Currently, there are about 9,400 bivocational pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention and some predictions indicate as many as half of the pastors in the convention may be bivocational by 2000 A.D.

Bivocational ministers support themselves financially in secular occupations but devote major priority to missions and ministries.

Nelson said the board developed because bivocational work was mushroomed so fast a great deal of confusion has developed concerning the ways in which the board relates to pastors, education directors and other ministers who work secularly but serve churches as well.

The new policy makes a bivocational

sub-committee of the Home Mission Board's Rural-Urban Council responsible for coordinating all inquiries and policies concerning the work of bivocational ministers relating to the board.

Quentin Lockwood, director of the rural-urban missions department for the Home Mission Board, will be the key contact person and coordinator of response to requests concerning bivocational pastors, Nelson said.

Two staff persons in different departments will continue to work with bivocationalists, Nelson said. J. T. Burdine, national consultant on bivocational ministries, works under Lockwood in the rural-urban missions department; and William Slagle, associate director of the board's church extension division, works to recruit and place bivocational pastors as "church planters" to start new missions work.

Nelson said two national conferences for bivocational ministers are planned for this year, one at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Aug. 8-14, and the other at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, July 11-17, 1981.

Demons Outscore The Pastors

RICHMOND, Mich. (EP via RNS) — The demons and devils have gathered more support than pastors in the controversy here over names for school sports teams.

Some church leaders recently petitioned the school board to exclude the devil as a team mascot. But supporters of the sports nicknames that have been used since 1947 launched a counterattack to retain the names — "Blue Devils" for the high school, "Demons" for the middle school and "Red Devils" for elementary schools.

Those supporting the name change gathered about 200 signatures on the petition which charged the names are objectionable and negative. The petition also noted the devil is an enemy of

mankind and a demon is one of the devil's workers.

A second petition, signed by over 3,000 people, has also been submitted to the school board urging the names be retained. That petition noted it "is a sad state of affairs that the people who have attended school in Richmond since 1947 that the names have 'not harmed them morally nor affected their Christianity in any way.'"

Off the Record

An eight-year-old boy had been pestering his father for a watch. Finally his father said in exasperation, "I don't want to hear about your wanting a watch again."

At dinner that night the family each gave a Scripture verse at the dinner table, and the boy repeated Mark 13:37, "And what I say unto you I say to all, Watch."

When you hear the expression, "Where in Sam Hill..." you are listening to a phrase dating back to early Colonial days when Colonel Sam Hill was an important public figure in Guilford, Conn. During his lifetime he was never defeated for election to the posts of town clerk, probate judge, and clerk of proprietors. He represented Guilford at General Assembly for many years. So in Connecticut when they wish to indicate speed in a person, vehicle or automobile they say, "runs like Sam Hill."

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January 27	7:00 p.m.	Oxford, First Church
January 28	10:00 a.m.	Winona, First Church

Mississippi Churches Give To Lottie Moon

Pleasant Grove Church, near Laurel, Jones County, more than doubled the goal set by the WMU for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. The goal was \$1,000 and the amount received was \$2,068.56. The WMS has only 16 members, but the whole church participated in giving.

First Church, Magnolia, has given \$6,689.60, to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. This amount exceeds the goal of \$5200 by 28% and the previous year's total of \$5041 by 34%. Such a response by the people of the church not only represents the largest amount ever given by the church to mission work, but it also represents the greatest increase in giving from one year to the next.

This offering has climaxed a year of a renewed mission effort on the part of the church. Seeking to be a part of the "Bold Mission Thrust," the church in March gave its largest offering to the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions and, in July, participated in an associational mission project by sending three men to Trinidad, Calif., as part of the work team from the Pike County Association to erect a building for the Westhaven Baptist Church.

The mission emphasis has been led by the W.M.U., directed by Mrs. Marjorie England. Farris Smith is the pastor.



DECORATING FOR MISSION: Mrs. Sarah Holland and Mrs. Annette Ford of Oakland Church adds more flags to the tree. For each \$4.00 received for Lottie Moon Mission Offering these two put another flag on the tree, representing a part of the world. When the church goal of \$400 was reached a star was placed in the top of the tree. "We are happy to be able to share in the work of our Baptist life around the world," said Buford Sellers, pastor.

Ruth Church surpassed its Lottie Moon Offering goal of \$1200, by giving a total of \$1,701. K. Charles Guy is pastor.

Nada Williams To Continue Work In Yugoslavia

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (BP) — Nada Horak Williams, widow of James A. Williams Jr., Southern Baptist fraternal representative to Baptists in Eastern Europe, says she plans to continue the work of her husband, who died in an auto accident in September near Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

Mrs. Williams teaches New Testament Greek at the Baptist Seminary in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. She is testing programmed lessons for the self-study which will be used later in theological education by extension studies and finishing a New Testament Greek handbook in programmed instruction. She also translates from English and German into Croatian for a Baptist magazine and books for theological education, coordinates a young people's cassette ministry, and handles correspondence with listeners of Trans World Radio.

Mrs. Williams says, "All of this seems overwhelming for me, considering three young children, but nevertheless seems attractive, because I know I can count on the Lord."

A native of Yugoslavia, Mrs. Williams met her husband when he came to Zagreb as an exchange student.

Needed: Baptist Men To Restore Housing In Bronx

Baptist men with construction skills are needed to restore housing in the South Bronx area of New York City.

Individuals or groups that can go to New York for one or two weeks in 1981 will supervise and work with Bronx residents in an organized revitalization effort known as Shepherds Restoration Corp. The first phase of the project is scheduled for either Feb. 14-21 or Feb. 21-28.

Volunteers will have opportunities to share with other workers on the job and may be invited to participate in other ministries such as visitation, leadership training, mission center work and speaking engagements in local churches.

The South Bronx has been deteriorating for about the last 10 years. For various reasons, housing has become dilapidated, people have left and

businesses have closed.

The community will provide two workers for every volunteer that comes. These workers will have first priority on the option to live in the housing once it is refurbished.

Participants are asked to pay their expenses to and from New York City. Housing will be provided in the city. The project will be sponsored jointly by the Home Mission Board and the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

For applications and more information, call Bill Wilson, Special Mission Ministries consultant with the Home Mission Board, at 404-873-4041, or write to him at 1350 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30367. Or contact Frank Black at the Brotherhood Commission at 901-272-2461. His address is 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104.

Florida Braces For Flood Of Haitians

By Patti Stephenson

MIAMI (BP) — Southern Baptists in southeast Florida, still inundated by Cuban "freedom flotilla" refugees, are bracing for a new flood of homeless Haitians.

John Pistone, language missions director for Miami Baptist Association, says the number of Haitians arriving daily has "jumped drastically" since October, when the Bahamian government ordered 25,000 undocumented Haitians to report for deportation.

Rather than return to Haiti, some 200 refugees a day are fleeing to Florida. More than 12,500 Haitians have reached the U.S. this year, compared to 2,522 in 1979. Officials estimated as many as 60,000 might arrive by Jan. 15.

Milton Leach, director of Southern Baptist Refugee Resettlement and Relief, says Miami-area associations are

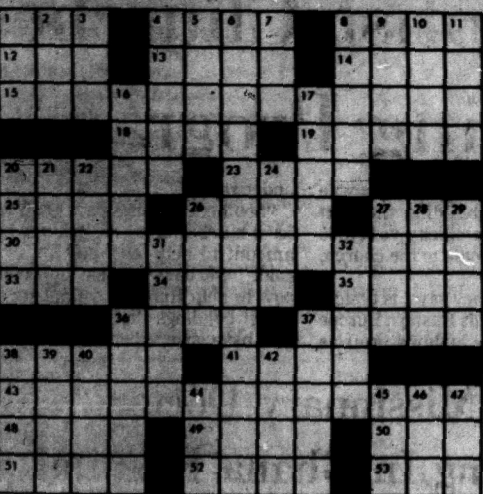
"doing the best they can" to find shelter and sponsors for both Cuban and Haitian refugees.

"Their most desperate need is food," Leach says. Louisiana Brotherhood volunteers are moving a disaster relief van to the French-Speaking Baptist Church where they'll serve two meals a day from the converted tractor-trailer rig. Funds to buy beans and fish have been given by the Home Mission Board's Christian Social Ministries Department and Language Missions Division.

The Haitian exodus has been triggered by dire poverty and political persecution, Leach says. An estimated two-thirds of the island's six million people earn less than \$200 a year and refugees report rampant human rights violations by "dictator for life" Jean-Claude Duvalier.

(Stephenson is an HMB Newswriter)

Bible Puzzle
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Battle site (2 Sam. 21:18)
 - 4 Blood (Deut. 12:23)
 - 8 Direction (Matt. 8:11)
 - 12 Literary collection
 - 13 The sandarac tree
 - 14 Mars; comb. form
 - 15 "had not" —
 - 18 Written word (Dan. 5:25)
 - 19 Jacob's dwellings (Gen. 28:27)
 - 20 Jacob's husband (Judg. 7:24)
 - 23 Biblical measure
 - 25 Czar of Russia
 - 26 Remotely
 - 27 About: abbr.

- DOWN**
- 1 He shall overcome (Gen. 49:19)
 - 2 Built by Shamed (1 Chron. 8:12)
 - 3 Bar
 - 4 Beam, of a kind
 - 5 Middle East country
 - 6 "as it had been the" (Acts 6)
 - 7 Sin
 - 8 Cake
 - 9 Ireland
 - 10 The Nazarenes (Acts 24:5)
 - 11 Pedal digits
 - 16 Correct
 - 17 Passage: Anat.
 - 20 Shall be brought low (Luke 3:5)
 - 21 Cry of the Bacchanals
 - 22 "I cry cannot" (Isa. 56:10)
 - 24 Roman Catholic service
 - 26 Sacred bull
 - 27 Swear
 - 28 Ruler of Edom (Gen. 36:32)
 - 29 "a —, and a stumbling-block" (Rom. 11:9)
 - 31 Aaron (Psa. 106:16)
 - 32 Fur-bearing animal
 - 36 Balls
 - 37 Seed: comb. form
 - 38 One of faith (Heb. 11:4)
 - 39 Yield
 - 40 Brother
 - 41 Brother (Num. 26:19)
 - 42 The dill
 - 44 Mountain on Crete
 - 45 — in, tired
 - 46 Educator's association: abbr.
 - 47 Surpass

CRYPTOVERSE

ECR ZY QYWF EQQ OXMY TJ ECR

WXQQXUYR ZKS

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(Answers on page 7)



JAMIE MITCHELL on Dec. 7 received the highest award in scouting — the Eagle Badge. An eighth grade student, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Mitchell of Pontotoc. His brother, DAVID, also is a recipient of the Eagle Badge, having been presented the award on Sept. 18, 1978.

Both David and Jamie are also recipients of the "God and Country Award." David is a member of the "Order of the Arrow" and will enter college this fall to prepare himself for the Christian ministry. These two young men are active in church, community, and scouting. Both are members of the West Heights Baptist Church in Pontotoc, Jack Gregory, pastor.

Left to right are Ralph Mitchell, David, Jamie, Mrs. Rose Mitchell, and Scoutmaster David Whiteside of Yocoma Area Council, Scout Troop No. 20.

Lella Jackson of Sturgis, Miss., is the author of a curriculum unit for the January, February, March 1981 issue of *Start* magazine. Start is for leaders of Mission Friends, WMU's missions organization for preschoolers.

Miss Jackson's unit focuses on Southern Baptist missions work in Paraguay.

A graduate of Blue Mountain College and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Miss Jackson served as a home missionary in Arizona.

Miss Jackson is a Mission Friends leader in East Louisville Baptist Church, and she is associational Mission Friends director for Winston Association. (WMU).

Gary Inman recently resigned as president of the New Mexico Baptist Foundation and New Mexico Baptist Church Loan Corporation. The Search Committee members of the Board of Directors have stated that they would be pleased to receive recommendations or applications from qualified individuals.

Ivor Clark, state chaplain, American Legion of Mississippi, now lives in Hattiesburg (telephone 582-4637), and is available for pulpit supply, and interim pastorates, as well as speaker for patriotic occasions.

The J. B. Betts Family, formerly of Mississippi and now of Memphis, will be honored Sunday, January 25, by the Leawood Baptist Church, Memphis. The church will hold Betts Family Day, according to an announcement by the pastor, Jerry L. Glisson. The Betts family will sing two or three songs in the service at 11 a.m. and they will present a concert at the 7 p.m. service. The church is at 3638 Macon Road at Homer, Memphis, Tenn. "All friends of the Betts family are invited," said the pastor.

D. M. Aldridge, president of Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, Kentucky, recently announced his retirement effective June 15, 1982. He is a graduate of the University of Southern Illinois and the Southern Seminary.

Bobby Shurden resigned on Jan. 4 as minister of music and youth of Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport, to enter the field of music evangelism.

He will begin this new ministry on March 1, 1981, and can be contacted after that, by writing him at Bobby Shurden Ministries Inc., P. O. Box 264, Drew, Miss. 38737 or calling (601) 745-8744.

BIBLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

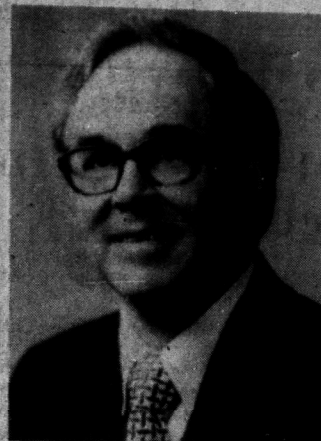
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"And he left all, rose up, and followed him" (Luke 5:28).

Montana Pastor Visits Attala

The Missions Committee of Attala Baptist Association recently sponsored a covered-dish supper meeting for associational and church leaders. Guest speaker for the meeting was Oliver Marson, a Southern Baptist home missionary and pastor of First Baptist Church, Poplar, Montana. The meeting was held at Williamsville Baptist Church. According to Levon Moore, director of missions, the Marsons were guests of the association in connection with the association's Partners in Missions program.

The Marsons spoke at McCool Baptist Church on the following night. McCool Church has adopted the Froid Baptist Mission, Froid, Montana; as its partner in pioneer missions. Froid is a mission of the Poplar Church and was started by the Marsons.



A. Harold Cole, executive secretary-treasurer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention since Jan. 1, 1970, has announced his early retirement as of the end of 1981 when he will be almost 62. He said he wants "to retire early enough to have energy and time to do something else." (BP) photo.

Mississippians Build Solar Grain Dryer In Honduras

A work crew from Mississippi went to Puerto Lempira, Honduras, last fall to build a solar-powered grain dryer and a warehouse to store grains in. The crew of ten was led by Sammy Simpson, Agricultural Missions Foundation, Tupelo.

While in Puerto Lempira, the men also built a boat house and repaired a chain saw for the missionary, Landon Wilkerson. A concrete block building was completed shortly after their visit, for use as a radio station.

The Mississippians visited Baptist churches at Uhumuya, Caratasca, Kokota, Puswaya, and Puerto Lempira.

Staff Changes

South Corinth Church, Corinth, has called as pastor, Edward N. Knox. He goes from Tupelo, where he was pastor of Chesterville, Calvary Church.

Knox and his wife have two children, Kimberly and Kevin. Knox is a native of Houston, Miss., and his wife, Cecelia, is from Vardaman. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and is now enrolled in a seminary studies program in Jackson, Tenn.

Mrs. Debbie Kennedy is the new office secretary and bookkeeper for Pike County Baptist Association, Glen Williams, director of missions. She is a member of Bluff Springs Church, has a B.S. degree from Mississippi Southern University, and was married this summer to Butch Kennedy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Kennedy.

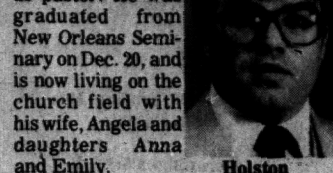
Richard Holden has resigned as associate minister at Central Church, McComb, to accept the pastorate of the Salem Church, Waltham, Conn.

Thad Pritchard is the new minister of music, and Linda Smith the new director of the Christian Family Life Center at First Church, Summit. Dennis Johnsey is pastor.

Earl Clark has been called as pastor of Newhebron Church, Newhebron. Carroll Jackson, who served as interim at Newhebron Church, is now serving as interim pastor at Highland Church, Jackson.

Pasadena, Calif. (EP) — A \$107,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. will enable Fuller Theological Seminary to launch a pilot model of outreach to youth in the urban black churches of Los Angeles.

Adatan Church of Starkville has called Rocky Holston as pastor. He was graduated from New Orleans Seminary on Dec. 20, and is now living on the church field with his wife, Angela and daughters Anna and Emily.



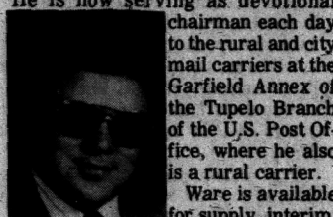
Gordon Cowan is the new pastor of Spring Hill Church, Marshall County. He was born in New Orleans, La., was graduated from Clarke College, and is now a junior at Blue Mountain College.

Cowan moved to Spring Hill from New Fellowship Church, Hickory. He is married to the former Ellen Roberts, also of New Orleans; they have six children.

Ray G. Ware has resigned as pastor of the Palmetto Church, Lee County. He is now serving as devotional chairman each day to the rural and city mail carriers at the Garfield Annex of the Tupelo Branch of the U.S. Post Office, where he also is a rural carrier.

Ware is available for supply, interim, or pastoral work and may be contacted at 219 Clements Circle, Rt. 6, Tupelo, MS 38801 (phone 566-7334).

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Missionary News

Douglas and Betty Van Devender, missionaries to Kenya, have arrived on the field to begin language study (address: P. O. Box 52, Limuru, Kenya). Born in Corpus Christi, Texas, he also lived in Louisville and Jamestown, Ky., Lumberton, Texas, Clinton and Goodman, Miss., and Bluefield, Va., while growing up. She was born in Atlanta, Ga.

Larry and Cheryl Cox, missionaries to Upper Volta, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: B. P. 15, Tenkodogo, Upper Volta). Born in Lexington, Miss., he was a member of the First Baptist Church and grew up in Greenwood while growing up.

Bill and Barbara Moseley, missionaries to Brazil, may be addressed at Caixa Postal 352, 20000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil. A native of Florida, he was born in Wauchula, and later lived in Avon Park and St. Petersburg. She is the former Barbara Cooke of Crowder, Miss. They were appointed in 1971, resigned in 1976, and were reappointed in 1978.

John and Fonce McFadden, missionaries to Nigeria since 1972, resigned from missionary service Nov. 30, 1980. They were stationed in Eku where he served as a missionary physician. Born in Monroe, La., he spent much of his childhood in West Point, Miss. The former Fonce McPhail, she was born in Tulsa, Okla., and grew up in Hattiesburg, Miss. They may be addressed at 2502 Bryan, Tupelo, Miss. 38801.

Claude Lee Jenkins, 80, father of Guinevere (Mrs. James) Young, missionary to Bangladesh, died Jan. 10. The funeral was held Jan. 11 at Nowell Funeral Home, Kosciusko. Survivors besides Mrs. Young include his wife, Mrs. Mildred Brand Jenkins of Sallis; a son, Andy Jenkins, Jackson; another daughter, Mrs. Beulah Jordan, Yazoo City; six brothers; four sisters; and five grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. James Young arrived in the States Jan. 7 and will be here until Feb. 2. They may be addressed in care of her mother at Rt. 1, Sallis, Miss. 39160 (phone 289-2888).

Just For The Record



OLDER PRESCHOOLERS AT FIRST CHURCH, MIZE, recently studied foreign missions in the Ivory Coast. The teacher of their book, in photo, at right as she led the art and cooking activities for the study, dressed as a mother from the Ivory Coast. Other age groups in the church also took part in foreign mission study. Older Preschoolers at First, Mize, attended a cookie bake and decoration party at the home of one of their teachers, Mrs. George McNeese. The preschoolers, photo at left, decorated napkins, plates, and cookies for a party they gave for their parents the following evening in their Sunday School classroom. George McNeese is their pastor.

Ruth Church presented the pastor, K. C. Guy, with a check for \$250 as a Christmas gift. The Guys honored the church members at a reception after the evening service on Dec. 21, at which time the members surprised the pastor and his family with a pounding.

Ruth Church has installed pew cushions in the sanctuary, a project sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union of the church. WMU members, with some help from the church, also bought and hung curtains in the education building.

Oak Grove Church, Mendenhall's RA group recently registered with the Brotherhood department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, as the Joe Maddox Crusaders. This group had charge of the Thanksgiving eve worship service at Oak Grove. Carlton McNeel, pastor, presented the certificate of registration to Wayne Taylor, Crusader president.

SCRAPBOOK

A Winter Day

I love the beauty of a winter day
The quiet solitude it brings to me,
A leafless tree against a sky of winter gray,
Or snowflakes falling, what a sight to see!

The stately pines that stand across the way
The birds that feed around my window sill,
Woodsmoke curling lazily on high,
Starry nights that are so cold and still.

Some folks complain of winter, but I say
What greater gift could God have given me,
Than give me special eyes that I can see,
Beauty, where no beauty seems to be.

—Ruth Norsworthy Crager
State Line,
Miss.

Recompense

If I have let the day
Go by and have not said,
A word of comfort, helped
To lift a drooping head
Or thrown a life-line to
A sinking brother
What right have I to ask
If of another
When I shall flounder or
My hopes have fled
Where can I look for bread,
If I my brother have not fed?

—Valerie Boyd Howell
Ripley, Ms.

Marriage is that relation between man and woman in which the independence is equal, the dependence mutual, and the obligation reciprocal. — L. K. Anspacher

The Pedestal

So often we try
To pass on the blame
To cover our tracks
Or just heal the pain
That we feel deep inside
When we realize we've failed
And sinned against God
Who saved us from hell.

We say little things
Like, "It's not my fault —
It's the environment around me"
Yet it's like
Pouring into a wound
Salt.

When we puff up with pride
Yet we know that we've lied
Still we just won't give up and let go
To get on our faces
And confess.

If we'd just learn to realize
That no matter how far
We try to wander
He's still there
Still we run and we run —
And we think it is fun —
But the joy we sorely miss.

Though we try and we try
And we fail and we fail
To change on our own
Nevertheless we understand
Progress lies only within His hands.

If we'll just step down
From the pedestal
That we've built for ourselves
And allow Him to rule
Supremely
Then our problems are solved.

—Kim Jobe, 16
Corinth, Miss.

My Church

There's an old country church where I love to go
Each Sunday to worship and pray,
To study the words of the Holy Book,
And cast my troubles away.

As I look around on the faces of friends,
Of neighbors and loved ones there,
I feel the presence of my Almighty God
When we bow our heads in prayer.

There's a young man there who preaches the word,
And I love to watch his face
As he tells us of the Savior's love,
And that we are saved by grace.

The piano is played by his sweet young wife,
And their voices in harmony blend
As they sing for us a special song
Before the service begins.

There's a wonder there and a spirit of love,
And a blessing I surely receive,
For each time I go to that country church,
The stranger I believe.

—Beth Laney
Kilmichael, Miss.

(Dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Britt, pastor and pianist of the Bethlehem Baptist Church, Montgomery County.)

then came Sunday

Composed by Rodger Strader
Arranged and orchestrated by Bob Krogstad

From the same team that brought you the best-selling musical *King of Love* comes another creatively brilliant musical for 1981. With emphasis on the Resurrection, *then came Sunday* features original solo and choral parts against the stirring background music of a 55-piece London orchestra, and it's easily presented by choir groups of all sizes.

FOR PERFORMANCE
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LP Stereo Record
8-Track Stereo Tape
Cassette Stereo Tape

Look for *then came Sunday* at your BAPTIST BOOK STORES

It's going to be a beautiful Easter!

good life productions

Bible Book Series

Immorality In The Church

By Gordon H. Sansing, Pastor
First, Pontotoc

1 Corinthians 5:1-6:20
Focal Passage: 1 Corinthians 5:1-2,
6-7, 9-10; 6:1-2, 11-15, 20

Perhaps the attitude regarding immorality in the church in Corinth was involved in a way expressed by Alexander Pope:

Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,
As to be hated needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

The church in Corinth had become so engrossed in wisdom and philosophy that they had become completely careless of the moral implications of the gospel.

I. Immorality And Complacency (5:1-4)

Two problems in the church are addressed by Paul. First, there was the case of flagrant sexual sin which involved a man in the church who had an illicit sexual relationship with his stepmother. This was clearly forbidden in the Old Testament (Leviticus 18:7-8:20:11).

The second problem, just as disturbing to Paul and maybe more so, was the attitude of the church toward this evil. Those who reported this to Paul said the people were "arrogant, puffed up." The same kind of arrogance which blinded them in their factions to the oneness of Christ had also made them insensitive to this moral problem in the church. They had complacently accepted the situation and done nothing about it. What a blight on the church this was in the eyes of heaven people.

Instead of being arrogant about this, the church should have been grieved with a grief like that of mourning for the dead. These carnal Christians had not felt shame and agony over this, for they were insensitive to sin.

Paul suggested that this man should be separated from the fellowship. The purpose of this exclusion was redemptive and not just punitive. It was discipline, not solely for punishment, but also to awaken this one to the seriousness of his sin. It is important to note that discipline in the New Testament is primarily redemptive and not vindictive.

These Christians were glorying in the wrong thing. It was not fitting for the church to react in this manner, for if these evil actions were condoned, others might be encouraged to do something similar. Therefore, they were to purge out the old leaven lest it affect and endanger the whole church as well as destroy this man and the church's witness to a pagan community. Paul urged these Christians to experience a fresh start in their redeemed status.

2. The Church in the World (5:9-13)

In a previous letter Paul had instructed the Corinthian Christians not to associate with immoral people. They had misunderstood Paul's meaning. Actually he had urged them not to continue in fellowship with immoral church members.

Immoral people could not be totally avoided in that day nor this and that was not Paul's intent. The problem in Corinth was not that the church existed in a pagan environment. That is exactly where the Lord placed the church.

The problem was how to relate to that pagan society as God's church in the world. To allow an immoral member of the church to continue without discipline would defeat the effort to win Corinth to Christ. The point is that the church must go out into the world as salt and light. But the church must ever be on guard against worldliness within. Therefore, if a Christian brother be an "immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an idolater" — deal with him. He is one who has made a vow to Christ and can therefore be called in question for how he keeps it.

3. The Problem Of Lawsuits (6:1-8)

It has also come to Paul's attention that there were those in the church who were bringing civil suits against fellow church members in public courts. He was distressed that those who would share in the final judgment would act so incompetent in these small matters. They ought to be able to deal with these "matters of life" (v.3).

Paul thought it tragic for believers to carry their disputes before pagan judges for this would discredit the gospel in the eyes of the pagan society to which the church was a witness. The Christian cause always suffers in such instances where brother goes against brother.

Paul tried to shame these Christians saying: "Is there not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren?" You boast about your superior wisdom but cannot settle your differences.

Rather than disgrace the Christian cause "why not be wrong or defrauded?" But you do wrong and defraud even your own brothers. The spirit of love should determine your relationships.

4. The Solution — Sanctification (6:9-20)

The reminder was: "the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God." The list made by Paul is wide in scope. Then he says, "Such were some of you." But Paul would never stay there for there is hope in Jesus Christ.

In contrast, Paul wrote that those in the Corinthian Church had been "washed... sanctified... and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." They had been cleansed, their sinful past washed away, forgiven; they had been made holy, set apart and were continuing in that process of becoming like Christ; they had been made right. Therefore these Christians should live responsibly.

The Christian faith involved the total person — body, mind and spirit. Some in Corinth claimed they were free to do anything they pleased. Paul confronted their slogan, "all things are lawful for me," by saying, "But not all things are helpful... I will not be enslaved by anything." They were not to be slaves to "things" (v. 12) and "meat" (v. 13) were to be affected by a deeper commitment to God.

The Christian belongs to Christ totally. Life is not to be separated into parts. So to be joined to a harlot physically was to weaken spiritually a member of Christ's body.

Therefore, "keep on fleeing immorality," was Paul's admonition. This sin desecrates the body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit and has been purchased with great price. To those who said the body does not matter, only the spirit is important, Paul said you are a part of Christ, you are the temple of the Holy Spirit, you are bought with a great price. "Therefore, glorify God in your body." As you do this you will bring honor to God and experience wholeness within yourself. This is the Christian way.

"Home Missions" Changes To "Mission/USA"

ATLANTA (BP)—The chronicle of Southern Baptist missions in America is changing names. Beginning with its January/February 1981 issue, *Mission/USA* will be the new name for *Home Missions*, magazine of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The change comes on the heels of one of the magazine's highest honors. The Ragan Report, a weekly survey of ideas and methods for communication executives, cited the magazine as one of "Arnold's Admirables," named for columnist Edmund Arnold.

"Yours is one of the 10 publications (in the United States) selected for their excellence in typography, design, content and writing," publisher Lawrence Ragan told *Mission/USA* Editor Walker Knight.

The publication's name change has been needed for several years, Knight said. "First, we want to avoid confusion with *Home Life*, a magazine published by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Second, we want to convey more accurately the intent of the *Home Mission Board's* periodical, to cover the full range of missions and ministry in the United States and her territories."

Hastey Says Evangelism Planning Will Be Taken "On The Field"

By Mike Livingston
RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Ervin Hastey likes to help other people realize their dreams.

That's probably because most of the people he's worked with during the last 25 years were national Baptist leaders who shared his own dreams for evangelizing their countries.

As a missionary to Mexico and Panama he helped nationals plan special projects in evangelism and church growth while earning for himself the reputation of being a quiet, effective leader.

If he's not the take-charge type it's because he doesn't see taking charge as the successful route in mission planning. He's a soft-spoken goal setter and goal reacher. Hastey's idea of mission planning is to begin by asking others, "What do you want to do?" and "How can I help you achieve it?"

So at a time when the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board wants to

emphasize that its No. 1 priority is evangelism and church growth, the board is turning to Ervin Hastey.

As part of mission planning, Hastey has been named the board's consultant for evangelism and church growth. In that role he will train four regional consultants in strategic areas around the world. They will work with national leaders and missionaries on the field in long-range planning for Baptist missions.

Two of the consultants have been named — Farrell E. Runyan in Africa and William L. Wagner in Europe and the Middle East. All four were expected to be on the field by Jan. 1.

Hastey is excited about the departure from the tried-and-tested. The regional consultants, he said, will mean that evangelism planning will be taken out of Richmond to where it should be done — on the field. "There's just no way we can plan in Richmond what

needs to be done in Thailand or in any other part of the world," Hastey adds.

Lewis Myers, under whom Hastey will be working, agrees. "The concept represents some of the most exciting kinds of things Southern Baptists have been involved in for 20 years," he says. "It is a shoring up of the communication channels."

He emphasized Hastey is not to be a consultant helping organizations of missionaries conduct evangelism crusades. Instead, he is to be a consultant to the evangelism and church growth processes of the missions.

Hastey has expressed concern that not everything being done in the religious arena today contributes to evangelizing the lost and establishing New Testament churches.

He said evangelism can't really be effective unless it brings people into church life in some kind of fellowship where they can really learn what it means to be a Christian.

Uniform Lesson

Proclaim The Kingdom

By Tom F. Rayburn
First, Booneville
Matthew 9:35-38, 10:1, 5-15

The purpose of this lesson is to help to grasp the work of a disciple and to be motivated to do that work. This lesson is the heart of missions. Billy Graham has said, "Through the centuries, the church of Jesus Christ has flourished in exact ratio to its interest in missions."

I. Matthew 9:35-38

V. 35 Cities and villages — This refers to all parts of Galilee.

Teaching — This means privately instructing. On the mountain Jesus sat and taught his disciples in a private classroom.

Preaching — The means to publicly announce the gospel.

The gospel of the kingdom — The message of grace and glory.

Healing — Much human misery and divine mercy are seen here. Jesus was zealous in his effort to reach people and save them. The devil is jealous in his efforts to reach people and destroy them.

The devil held a convention and all his demons were present to report the results of their missions. One demon said, "I let loose all the wild beasts of the desert on a caravan of Christians, and their bones are now bleaching on the sands."

"What of that?" said the devil. "Their souls are saved."

Another demon said, "I drove the east wind against a ship filled with Christians and they were all drowned."

"What of that?" said the devil. "Their souls were saved."

A third demon spoke, "I tried for ten years to get a certain Christian to sleep, and finally I succeeded, and left him asleep."

The devil shouted, "All the night stars of hell will sing your praise!" The devil was pleased, for you see, a sleeping Christian is an ineffective witness for the Lord.

V. 36 Saw the multitude — Wherever he went he saw them and was moved to help them and save them.

Moved with compassion — He had pity on them. One of Jesus' most wonderful dispositions was his compassion.

They fainted — They were weary and fatigued and burdened from labor. They were tired with performing the rites of religion and the doctrine of the

Pharisees. They were neglected by their spiritual leaders who should have enlightened them.

Scattered — This was a land of flocks. Flocks of sheep strayed night and day without a shepherd. They were scattered because they were harassed, cast down, treated selfishly, heartless, and left in ignorance and darkness by their spiritual leaders who should have stayed with them and taught them, but who left them to be scattered and endangered by wild animals or false teachers.

V. 37 Harvest is plentiful — Here is a picture of golden grain waving in the fields ready for reaping. Harvest represents many people who are prepared to receive the gospel but the laborers are few. Jesus told the disciples to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth reapers. God is the Lord of the harvest. Only God can send workers into the harvest to gather it. This is a great challenge for missions.

Laborers are few — Recently in an interfaith workshop in our church the leader said that if Southern Baptists counted all the workers that we have, we would have about 30,000 full-time missionaries. However, recent figures given by a government agency predicted that by the year 2000 the population of the earth would be staggering. Southern Baptists will need more workers to go into the fields of the world to gather the harvest. This is what Bold Mission Thrust is all about.

V. 38 Pray ye — Here we see the duty of praying for the lost multitudes of the earth. There are still those in our churches who do not think much of missions. They must be challenged to see the need and to join with mission minded people to pray for the conversion of the world.

II. Matthew 10:1, 5-15

V. 1 Called them and gave them power — Mark and Luke also record the sending out of the 12. Mark says that he sent them out two by two. This was so that they would have a companion, and visit more places, and accomplish more work than if they all went together. In our church visitation, it is better to go out two by two. You give each other courage and strength. One can pray while the other witnesses. The disciples were not educated or learned men, and could not spread Christianity by talent or wisdom. They were not wealthy men and could not bribe others to follow Christ. They were not men of rank and office

and could not compel men to believe. They were the best to be found. They were plain men, of common sense and some character, and honest. They were men who were given good opportunities to witness. Their work was to cast out devils, heal the sick, raise the dead (v.8), and cleanse lepers.

V. 5 City of the Samaritans enter ye not — Samaria was a region between Jerusalem and Galilee. It was a mixture of the ten tribes and foreigners. They accepted the Five Books of Moses, but worshipped idols also. During the rebuilding of the Temple at Jerusalem by the Jews, the Samaritans offered help but it was rejected. The Samaritans built a Temple on Mt. Garizim and said this was the place that Moses designated. Sanballat harassed the Jews in their rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem and the temple. For these reasons the Jews hated the Samaritans. Later Jesus preached to them. The woman at the well was one of them (Jn 4:6-24). However, the gospel was first preached to the Jews.

V. 6 Go to the lost sheep of Israel — Jesus regarded the Jews as lost and wandering like sheep, straying without a shepherd. They were the chosen of God. They had looked for the Messiah and it was proper for them to hear the gospel first.

V. 7 Kingdom is at hand — The reign of God draws near. Repentance is the way to enter. Repentance is to change your mind about sin, and look to God.

V. 8 Freely received, freely give — They were not to sell their powers of healing and preaching. Their mission was not to be a money making business. However, this did not deny them from receiving a competent support.

V. 9, 10 — Provide neither... They were not to procure anything more for their journey, than what they already had. They were to go as they were, and trust God to supply their needs.

V. 10 The worker is worthy of his meat — The worker is to trust God. However, the listener is obligated to provide a living for those who preach the gospel. In Luke 8:1-3 the women provided funds for Jesus. Churches provided support for Paul in Phil. 4:15-16. In Rom. 15:27 the receivers of spiritual food are to support the preachers with material goods. We feed and provide for our work animals, our pets, our military personnel, our government leaders. Would we forget about those who labor for the Lord? (1 Cor. 9:7-14).

Life and Work Lesson

Praying With Confidence

First, Greenville
Basic Passage: Luke 11:38-11:13
Focal Passage: Luke 11:1-13

A group of preachers invited a young minister to pray with them before they all attended a conference session. They asked the oldest preacher in the group to pray aloud. He prayed with great eloquence and fervor. "How I wish I could pray like that," the young minister thought.

One of the greatest desires of the Christian should be that he might learn to pray with confidence. A disciple, by the very definition of his name, is a learner.

I. Follow the Pattern (11:1-4)

Our Lord prayed. We get several insights into his prayer life from Luke. As a regular part of his life and ministry, he depended upon the Father and communicated with Him. Prayer became increasingly important to Christ as he traveled toward Jerusalem and his ultimate destiny — the cross. His prayer life kindled a flame of desire in his disciples to pray like their Lord prayed. One day, as he prayed, the disciples requested that the Lord teach them to pray.

Those disciples surely knew how to pray. Yet they wanted to know more. They desired to pray with confidence, as Jesus prayed.

In response to their request Jesus gave them the Model Prayer, commonly known as the Lord's Prayer.

V. 11 Worthy — Being known for piety and holiness, and congenial disposition. They were to stay with people with whom they were able to get along.

V. 15 More tolerable... The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, along with Admah and Zeboim, were destroyed by fire and brimstone, because of their great wickedness. Jesus said their punishment will be more tolerable, that is more easily borne, than that of those who reject the gospel of Christ.

Why? Because they did not receive as much light and instruction. Capernaum was favored. The city was wealthy and best of all it was blessed by the presence and preaching and miracles of Jesus. The people in Capernaum who rejected Christ would go to hell. If Jesus had been present and preached and done miracles in Sodom and Gomorrah they would have repented, believed and been saved, and not destroyed.

(also see Matt. 6:9-13). According to custom a Rabbi would teach his followers what he knew. The disciples reminded Jesus that John taught his disciples to pray.

Prayer, according to the Master, begins with a recognition of God. We address him intimately, as Father. We acknowledge that he has a name. The name of God stands for his character. His name is "hallowed," which means "sanctified" or "set apart." God possesses uniqueness; he is in a class to himself.

Furthermore, prayer contains a request for the kingdom of God to come. The kingdom of God is a broad concept but basically it means the rule or sovereignty of God. The sincere desire of the Christian is for God to rule in the hearts of men. He can truly rule the world if he holds sway over the lives of enough men. God does not wish superior military might over nations; He wants to be the Lord over life.

In addition, prayer has a petition for our daily provisions. God grants us our bread one day at a time. In the wilderness the children of Israel got the manna each morning for that one day, except for the day before the Sabbath, when they received a double portion. When we learn to take life one day at a time, life will be better.

Next, the Model Prayer asks for forgiveness of sins in proportion to your willingness to forgive others. How can we refuse to forgive anyone who wrongs us when God has forgiven us of all our sins? That forgiveness came in spite of our unworthiness.

The final phrase in the Model Prayer petitions God not to bring us into temptation (also see Matt. 6:13). Temptation comes from Satan and we need to avoid, as much as possible, any confrontation with that evil one. The concern expressed here is that God would spare us from temptation's mighty power.

II. Persist In Prayer (11:5-8)

The Savior then encouraged his disciples to persist in prayer. With a brief illustration he suggested that no one would turn away a friend in need. Suppose your friend came in the middle of the night and urgently requested food for a journey. You would not drop in on him. Surely you would not turn him away, even if you and your children had retired for the night and did not really wish to be bothered. Jesus continued by saying that, even

if the man inside would not get up because a friend was in need, he would arise quickly because the one in need would not give up. ("Importunity" means "shameless persistence.")

III. Expect Good Gifts (11:9-13)

Can you receive anything you request from God? Jesus said to ask, seek, and knock. Some interpreters suggest that each of these three words increases in intensity over the other. To ask is to make known your request to God. To seek is to ask and actively pursue an answer. To knock is to ask, seek and let God know you are ready for an answer. These words probably are three ways of saying "keep on praying."

Persistence is a jewel in prayer. Do not give up when you pray. In our day of instant coffee, instant potatoes, instant pictures, instant information, we tend to get impatient with God. We must resist the tendency to make demands of God in a spirit which declares: "I want what I want — right now." Our Father does not respond to our demands. He does reward our faithfulness in prayer. A further illustration of persistence is found in 11:11-13.

Which father would give his son a stone if he asked for a loaf (of bread)? Would any man give his hungry child a snake (serpent) if he asked for a fish, or a scorpion if he requested an egg? The implied answer to all three questions is "No." That was so obvious that Jesus did not even give the answer. He merely added the lesson contained in the answer.

God, our Father, would not give any but the best gifts to us, his children. We, by comparison to God, are evil. If we, who are evil, give our children only the best, why do we think God would give us any less than His best gifts? Luke adds to Matthew's statement of this great truth (Matt. 7:11) that God will give us the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is his best gift, Christ with us (John 16:7-16).

Pray often. Pray with boldness. Pray sincerely. Men ought always to pray and not to faint (Luke 18:1). You can pray with confidence that God will give you what you need. "O Thou by whom we come to God, The Life, the Truth, the Way; The path of prayer Thyself hast trod; Lord! teach us how to pray."

— Alexander MacLaren